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# THE JAPAN GAZETTE,

A FORTNIGHTLY SUMMARY OF THE

POLITICAL, COMMERCIAL, LITERARY, AND SOCIAL EVENTS OF JAPAN.

VOL. XXVIII. No. 1.

YOKOHAMA, FRIDAY, JULY 8, 1881.

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## Summary.

THE last number of volume twenty-seven of this journal was dated June 24th for despatch per O. & O. steamer *Oceanic* for the United States and Europe, *via* San Francisco. The following mails have since been received:—

O.S.S. *Sarpedon*, Hongkong,  
with London mail of May 31 arrd. June 28  
J. & O. S. *Belgie*, San Fran'co, June 11 „ July 4  
And the following have been despatched:—  
O. & O. S. *Oceanic*, San Francisco ..... June 25  
M. M. S. *Mensaleh*, Marseilles..... July 5

DURING the past week or two a rumour has been spread, but industriously contradicted, to the effect that the Japanese government had resolved to abandon all further efforts to bring about a revision of the treaties. These negotiations were commenced in 1871; and

several attempts following upon long intervals of inaction have not had favourable results. The causes of delay have been first the unwillingness of Japan to submit to the continuance of the clauses known as the extra-territorial conditions; and the resolution of other countries to retain them for the present: and questions connected with the tariff. Many sympathize with Japan in her dislike of the extra-territorial clauses; but her statesmen should remember, and be the first to admit, that neither the laws of Japan nor their administration are even remotely fitted for the control and adjustment of those complex questions continually arising in the conduct of commerce; and that the difficulty is at present insuperable. The sooner Japan perfects her laws and secures their intelligent and pure administration, a task which Japanese are not yet sufficiently educated or experienced to perform, the sooner will objections to her jurisdiction over foreigners be removed; a state of things that would be hailed with pleasure by all true friends of the country. The second cause of delay is supposed to be the tariff, which is to be largely increased. The object of the increase is said to be purely to add to the state revenue; but we venture to assert that if the state restrictions upon exportation were removed the natural increase of importation would add to the revenue a probably larger sum than the proposed higher tariff on the present limited trade can be expected to do. Those interested in the question of the Japanese tariff should not overlook the fact that the exports of Japan during the past twelve years average \$21,000,000 *per annum* only; or about 2s. 3d. *per capita*: and that no larger trade can be done until the government relax the navigation laws.

THE condition of domestic trade is dependent for improvement upon an extension of the coast service. A recently attempted defence of the official monopoly has served to show that the privileges accorded to one person have the effect of limiting the tonnage available for trade between non-treaty ports to 30,000 tons monopoly, and 25,000 tons in small craft owned by private persons. This is the limit of capacity for the coastwise trade; and if more accommodation is required steamers must be bought, or recourse had to native junks.

THE MIKADO is to start on his northern tour about the 25th instant, and will be absent about eighty days. He will not, therefore, be in the metropolis on the arrival of the Princes Albert Victor and George.

ACCOUNTS from the interior and the west are not promising for the harvest. An unusually dry winter has been followed by heavy spring and early summer rains, causing

rivers to overflow, burst their banks, flood the country, and do serious injury to the young crops. Villages have been inundated and material damage done. A correspondent from Iturup (Kurile islands) describes the great quantity of ice met with in the forty-fourth parallel, and supposed to have made its way to the southward from Okhotak. In Yokohama the weather is colder than has ever been experienced by residents at this season of the year, the mean temperature of the past week being some ten degrees below the July average.

THE Second National Exhibition, opened in Tokio March 1st, was closed by the president, Prince Yoshihisa, on the 30th ultimo. This exhibition has been in every way as successful as creditable to the Japanese people. The buildings were extensive; the exhibits varied, excellent, and marking great strides in workmanship; and the attendance considerable. During the four months 738,499 visitors entered, and \$65,222 was taken at the gates. The next exhibition in 1884 will be looked forward to with great interest.

THE annual calendar of the Tokio Daigaku or University has been published; and the merits of this institution are so great that special reference has been made to them in another column. There are few countries able to offer college education of superior quality for two guineas per term, including living, fire, and lights. In educational policy Japan is far ahead of the most civilized nations when her resources are duly considered.

The impression that foreign merchants derive enormous profits from their export of silk has led to the formation of a native company with a large capital for the purpose of making direct shipments abroad for sale on account of the shippers. We observe with some regret the names of two of the leading silk merchants heretofore doing a large business with foreigners among the promoters of the company. Messrs. Hara Zenzaburo and Mogi Sobei, better known as Nosawayah and Kamiah, will probably find that silk transactions here are far more profitable than those which depend upon the chances of foreign markets. *Experientia docet.*

MR. F. VIVANTI, public silk inspector, has taken his brother Mr. A. Vivanti into partnership, and the business will hereafter be carried on in the name of Vivanti Brothers.

THE fourth of July, the national event which our American fellow residents celebrate, was saddened by the news received in the afternoon that President Garfield had been shot and dangerously wounded. Reports have since been current of his death, but as we go to press favourable news has been received.



## Leading Articles.

## THE COAST TRADE MONOPOLY.

THE public interested in this question will remember that on the 11th instant we encountered the bare, unsupported utterances of the *Japan Mail* with the substantial evidence afforded by the reports of a suit in which Mr. IWASAKI YATARO, the nominal owner of the company for which the *Mail* has assumed the rôle of apologist and defender, was plaintiff; and the contents of a letter written by the same gentleman and published in the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* in April 1878. The assertions of the *Mail* were contrasted with facts quoted from the statements of the person who alone can be supposed to know the position he occupied at that time; facts which the *Mail* had either forgotten or deemed convenient and prudent to ignore in the belief that, by taxing the *Gazette* with the authorship of statements made by Mr. IWASAKI YATARO, the public would be deceived and induced to form a different opinion to that now held. The article in the *Mail* was so replete with misstatements that exposure was the simplest of simple tasks. Every base upon which our contemporary relied was attacked and disproved, and its inferences were shown to be completely erroneous. Not satisfied with the demolition of the fabric upon which it had rested, a tentative defence of a thoroughly bad cause, the *Mail* now endeavours to set aside positive and convincing evidence by the idle repetition of assertions backed up by others equally untenable. These we will examine, but before doing so we are obliged to animadvert upon the disingenuousness of our contemporary. In alluding to the facts upon which our article was based, the *Mail* admits they were true four years ago, and adds that the world has long been familiar with them. If this is so; if these facts were within our contemporary's knowledge, why did it ignore their existence and improperly, because untruthfully, charge us with the fabrication of statements with regard to the Mitsu Bishi Company when it knew that every statement made by us rested upon the public utterances of Mr. IWASAKI YATARO? Was it in the hope that these facts had ceased to interest; that the convincing disproof of the *Mail's* counter assertions had, in the effluxion of time, passed into the limbo of forgotten things, that the opportunity was seized to foist upon the public an article which has been justly subjected to the harshest criticism and censure?

We will deal at once with a point on which much stress is and has been laid. "So long as the *Gazette* alone is the accuser," says the *Mail*, "Mr. IWASAKI's cause requires no advocacy." What is the meaning of this? This journal has never accused Mr. IWASAKI, but it has attacked the principle with which Mr. IWASAKI's name is closely identified. So far as the cause is concerned we do not know Mr. IWASAKI as an individual. That any association or monopoly can withstand the criticism of a newspaper acting, and known to be acting, *bona fide* in the interest of the public, is a question that time alone can furnish the answer to: but when the hardship inflicted upon a people by the existence of an abuse is demonstrated and confirmed by the writer who ventures to defend that abuse, the result ceases to be matter of speculation, and resolves itself

into certainty. Why, too, if Mr. IWASAKI's cause requires no advocacy, does the *Mail* rush forward and, by resorting to rash assertions, distortions of facts, emphasized assertions, and reiterations of *we know*, seek to defend a cause it conscientiously believes to be as radically bad as any monopoly expressly established by law to prey upon the means and fatten upon the labour of the masses? If our contemporary understands the question it deals with, it must know and feel that the merits are indefensible; and that not one honest thinking man can be found to advocate the continuance of those privileges which practically are sacrificing commerce in order that one person may benefit. We carefully sounded the springs of public opinion before first showing cause against an adversary so influential and vindictive, and found an almost absolute unanimity of thought adverse to the principles on which the company is founded and maintained. This we have done: it is not the JAPAN GAZETTE, singular in opinion, attacking Mr. IWASAKI YATARO; but the expression, through the columns of a newspaper, of a widespread belief that the monopoly is a serious evil mainly responsible for the general inactivity and poverty of the empire: and it is idle for any journal openly conducted in Japanese interests to attempt to remove the well founded belief of numbers of educated men of experience and discretion by merely meeting the direct avowals of the recipient of government favour by assertions of its own, made without authority, ambiguous, and indefinite.

The defence of the *Japan Mail* we will endeavour to quote clearly and in perfect fairness, extracting the substance from the volume of words in which it is enveloped.

The point at issue is simply this:—Has the government made Mr. Iwasaki Yataro a free present of certain ships, or has it not?

We say:—"It has not. On the contrary, Mr. Iwasaki has purchased those ships: has bound himself to pay for them by yearly instalments and has invariably been true to that engagement."

The *Japan Gazette* says:—"It has: the proof being that Mr. Iwasaki himself stated in a court of law four years ago, that the government had handed over to him certain steamers without remuneration; that he was the proprietor of those steamers, and that he had never been asked to pay anything for them."

Nothing could be more contradictory than the position we take to-day and that taken by Mr. Iwasaki four years ago. Nevertheless our version remains literally and unequivocally correct.

The "facts" of Mr. IWASAKI YATARO'S possession of the steamers are then given. In face of Mr. IWASAKI'S explicit declaration of the circumstances which gave him the reputed ownership, made in H.B.M. Court for Japan, we fail to see what these "facts" have to do with the point at issue, but lest we should incur a charge of unfairness we quote them.

After the Restoration the Government of Japan found itself possessed of certain ships which had originally belonged to the feudal chiefs. It placed those ships in the hands of a native company—The Yubin Jokisen Kwaisha—and the result was that in four years the Treasury accounts showed a loss of more than half a million yen. Moreover the ships were well nigh unserviceable, while the company's incompetence had become a by-word. The ships were then transferred to Mr. Iwasaki's care. They were not given to him nor even lent. He merely acted as the Government's agent, received a certain sum for his services and paid all moneys earned by the ships into the Treasury. A year's trial sufficed to demonstrate the inconvenience of this arrangement, and recourse was therefore had to a new method. The ships were given to Mr. Iwasaki for a term of 15 years, he undertaking to keep them in thorough repair, to hold them always at the disposal of their owners, and to relieve the Treasury of all pecuniary respon-

sibility in the matter. This was the state of affairs in 1877 when Mr. Iwasaki appeared before a court of law in Yokohama and made the statements upon which our contemporary builds his case. He had paid no remuneration for the ships and was their virtual proprietor for fifteen years.

This statement of "facts" involves many contradictions, any one of which is sufficient to impugn its accuracy. The Restoration dates from 1868. The present government placed the ships in the hands of a company incapable of the trust. Four years after, the vessels were transferred to Mr. IWASAKI. This brings us to 1873. Another year served to show the inconvenience of the arrangement first made. 1874. The ships were then given to Mr. IWASAKI for a term of 15 years, upon the conditions stated. Such an agreement would, therefore, not expire until 1889. Nothing was said of the cardinal point of the agreement when Mr. IWASAKI gave his evidence in a cause in which he sued as owner. He did not say then that he was merely *lessee* for a defined term without consideration; and that the ships, in reality, were the property of the government; and yet, according to the *Mail*, that was the true position. He had "paid no remuneration for the ships and 'was their virtual proprietor for fifteen years,' an assertion made by the *Mail* to justify the evidence given by Mr. IWASAKI in a court of law. Mr. DICKINS, counsel for the defendant in that cause, having distinctly stated that part of his case was to show that plaintiff was not the owner of the vessels, and had no right of action. Truly, the honour and veracity of a witness, the obligation under which he is under to speak the whole truth, more especially so when the truth is material to the issue, are but lightly esteemed by the writer in the *Mail*. The line of defence to which our contemporary is forced is sufficiently humiliating without this painful incident, to which we will make no further allusion, for our contemporary, equally with ourselves, must ever regret that it should have been betrayed into the publication of such "facts" upon which to justify its earlier assertions, and to explain the distinct statements to the contrary, supported by the only real evidence, made by the JAPAN GAZETTE.

An attempt is then made, in the following passage, to justify the previous assertion that the ships were not given to Mr. IWASAKI as distinctly declared by that gentleman in H. B. M. Court. The italics in the following passage are *literatim* with the original.

*It was not till the autumn of that year (1877) that the steamers were finally transferred to Mr. Iwasaki, who undertook to pay their assessed value by instalments. The liability he thus incurred was a very large one, nor is it yet, we believe, completely discharged, but there has hitherto been no failure to meet its engagements on the part of the Mitsu Bishi Company. At the present moment Mr. Iwasaki is the bona fide proprietor of the steamers by purchase.*

Have we then warrant for our statement, made in 1881, that the Government has not given but sold its steamers to Mr. Iwasaki, and has our contemporary on his side any warrant for accusing us of a "pure fabrication based upon premises as false as the inferences drawn from them?"

This is probably the weakest point in the *Mail's* "facts." In 1874 the ships are said to have passed to Mr. IWASAKI by virtue of an agreement with the government which, relieving the latter of all pecuniary responsibility, gave the former the full and free use of the vessels until 1889. Why, therefore, three years after the conclusion of an agreement so eminently favourable to one of the parties, should the favoured party consent to waive the remaining term, purchase the ships, and undertake



to pay for them by instalments? Mr. IWASAKI said the government gave him the ships; the *Mail* says they were only lent for fifteen years. Obviously an agreement granting the free charter of ships for fifteen years was too rich a prize to be given up; and it is certain the acquisition of the ships could have been made on much easier terms when they were twelve years older. Why, therefore, Mr. IWASAKI should have assumed a liability and abandoned an agreement which rarely falls to the lot of men to enjoy, is utterly inexplicable; and the *Mail* itself assigns no reason for the action.

These statements of the *Mail*, based as they are on a series of contradictions, are diametrically opposed to Mr. IWASAKI's own version, and before they can command a grain of credence, or be urged in extenuation of the former misstatements, the authority upon which they are made must be given up. Have the secrets of the government been disclosed by some faithless and interested official? Have any of the phantom directors of the Mitsu Bishi Company, "a company in which there are no shareholders beside myself," divulged the business of their employer? Have any of the employees of the proprietor broken the trust reposed in them? We rely for our facts upon Mr. IWASAKI YATARO, sole owner of the company, and as these facts are impugned we have a right to ask who gave the *Mail* the information it now uses as a means to contradict Mr. IWASAKI? We are not over-trustful in humanity, nor do we estimate integrity in Japan by a lofty standard, but we decline to accept a possible solution of the question on no better basis than mere supposition. We have no justification for assuming a breach of trust on the part of any of the officials of the government nor employees of the company; nor can we assume Mr. IWASAKI himself to be the authority, for the *Mail* says, in profane parable, and in denial of our insinuation that it had been inspired by Mr. IWASAKI, "We have not the pleasure of that gentleman's acquaintance, but the truth is 'not hidden under a bushel.'" With regard to this prevarication, we have only to say that if the pronoun in the sentence quoted is confined to the editor of the *Mail* the denial may pass for what it is worth; but if the pronoun includes the writer of the article, or the person who supplied the matter of it, we do not hesitate to express our unqualified disbelief in the unnecessary disclaimer of Mr. IWASAKI's acquaintanceship.

On the second part of the case, namely, that the company now is eminently prosperous, the *Mail* says:—

Of a precisely similar character are the *Gazette's* arguments with regard to the condition of the Company. Nearly four years ago Mr. Iwasaki stated that he had incurred heavy losses and that his business was unprofitable. Does this prove anything about his circumstances to-day? Really, one is almost inclined to suspect that there is something of senile silliness in our contemporary's inability to disentangle himself from the associations of the past.

Nevertheless, upon the strength of these two facts with which the world has long been familiar, viz., that four years ago Mr. Iwasaki had paid nothing for the greater part of the steamers flying the three-diamond flag, and that four years ago the Mitsu Bishi Company was not successful, the *Gazette* does not hesitate to infer to-day, that Mr. Iwasaki has never paid anything for those ships and that he is still running them at a loss! We, knowing the opposite of both propositions to be true, have ventured to make our knowledge public.

Examining this position, we find that shortly after the war, for its services during which the company had been remunerated in a liberal manner as the *Mail* admits, and in accordance with the "unit of measure employed when governments are concerned," and also that during the period preceding the rate of exchange ruled from par to about 110, and subsequently steadily and rapidly declined to 180, Mr. IWASAKI declared, in April 1878, that on three lines specified the losses had been and were then at the rate of 505,560 yen yearly: that he derived no profit from the other lines; and that it did not appear as if he could continue much longer.

Three years later (not four as the *Mail* puts it), notwithstanding these severe fall in currency, the company is said to have recovered the losses sustained since the commencement of business carried on "in the face of great trouble and difficulty," and to have attained a position described as eminently prosperous. Reaction must have been sudden, for we find Mr. IWASAKI, on May 13th following his address to the public in April, appealing for assistance based upon the serious losses sustained by him in their interests, subscribing 500,000 yen to the internal loan; and we have lately heard of the large sums advanced by him to the new railway monopoly; nevertheless we are unable to reconcile Mr. IWASAKI's declarations in April 1878, his subsequent actions, and his prosperity as stated by the *Mail*. We may, however, accept the *Mail's* statement in this particular as correct, but we will ask our contemporary to explain how, in three years, heavy losses could be recouped and the eminent prosperity of the proprietor assured, without a scale of freights which have severely taxed the producer for no other purpose than to enrich an individual who is using the taxpayers' property, acquired without payment, as a means for their oppression?

This state of things could not exist for a moment if it were not for the laws which guard Mr. IWASAKI from competition. Competition means that the people would have abundant and cheap conveyances to the inestimable advantage and furtherance of their trade: but the Mitsu Bishi Company might then fall from its pinnacle of eminent prosperity. The cause, therefore, is one between the PEOPLE OF JAPAN and IWASAKI YATARO: and all efforts to disguise the real effect and tendency of the radically bad system of the coast trade in this country must be in vain, while every day affords additional proof of the injury done to the people in order that one living personification of government favour may be secured in the position which is, according to his apologist, the reward of his patriotism, enterprise and perseverance.

We apologize for trespassing upon the patience of our readers. The welfare of this nation primarily depends upon the extension of the coast service; and it is obvious that while the so-called Mitsu Bishi Company holds unchallenged a monopoly which stifles all competition on the natural highway of the empire, commerce must remain inactive, the poverty of the people must increase, and the financial distress of the government must deepen.

We cannot forget that in its first article the *Mail*, alluding to our attacks upon the principle of the coast trade monopoly, said:—

"When a system is obstinately pursued despite its manifest inexpediency, a question arises not of discrimination alone, but of honesty. Before we pass sentence there-

fore, it will be well to consider the particulars of the accusation." The particulars of the accusation are before the *Japan Mail* and the public. What is their judgment?

## THE PAPER CURRENCY OF JAPAN.

A CORRESPONDENT of *The Economist* ascribes the depreciation of Japanese currency to the "quality" of the note. This term has given rise to some misapprehension which it will be well to investigate. The *Japan Herald* takes exception to it, and avers that "quantity," not "quality," is the cause of the declining value of Japanese kinsatsu.

"T. W." rests his case on the following grounds:—

As a matter of fact there is none too much currency in Japan. Indeed if it is to continue to consist of irredeemable paper it will soon appear that there is too little, and inflation will be as loudly called for here as it was in America after the collapse of 1873. Even the Government itself will be forced to inflation to meet continually rising prices. An increase of the currency is, therefore, more likely than any real reduction of it.

The device of occasionally applying portions of the already deficient coin reserve to purchases of currency in the market only aggravates every evil of the situation. It deceives no one; for it is believed that the notes withdrawn must soon be reissued or fresh notes issued in their places. And it benefits no one (except a few speculators); for what the country needs is not less money, but better money; and depletions of the metallic reserve, which lead only to fresh exportations of coin, leave the whole financial system just so much the weaker. If the whole 20 millions of coin said to be in reserve were thus employed, the 150 millions of paper might be reduced to only 130 millions, but that remainder would then have no bottom whatever, and would speedily sink to worthlessness. It would then be seen that, instead of there being too much money in use, there was, in fact, no money at all, and trade would be obliged to establish some new measure of value, or, else, return to the mere barter of barbarous times. The history of paper money abounds in examples of such complete collapses of value, and Japan, as she now goes, is but too likely to furnish another.

The *Herald* meets this in the following terms:—

As to the so-called 'quality' of the paper money it has undergone no change: it has always been as it is now,—simply inconvertible. No body ever took it formerly, or takes it now, to hold it under the expectation that the government will at some unfixed period be both able and willing to redeem it on presentation at the treasury. But it is taken to be used as real money,—as an instrument of exchange in all the daily transactions of life. Whether the currency be ever redeemed in part or in whole, either during this century, or the next, or never, is of no moment to its holders to-day, who accept it without a thought of its ultimate redemption. . . . Their 'quality' being unaltered, and the government being more firmly established than when first issued as a forced currency, 'T. W.'s' assertion does not carry conviction.

. . . But if the writer's (T. W.'s) mind were not possessed of an erroneous idea, that it is quality not quantity that is at the bottom of the low value to which paper money has fallen, he would see that inflation is the real evil that affects the community now, and is the sole cause of the mischief experienced.

To this "T. W." rejoined:—

As to the facts, you imply that the present depreciation of kinsatsu results partly from the dubious position of the government before its power was fully established, and partly from the large issues necessitated by the Satsuma rebellion in 1877. But if this were so the depreciation would have reached its maximum before August 1877, when the rebellion was finally suppressed, the government firmly settled, and the volume of kinsatsu at its height. Instead of this the fact is, that there was no important discount on kinsatsu before 1878. In December 1877 the difference between paper yen and gold yen was only five per cent., and gold yen were then at a premium in silver. Even during 1878 the discount up to August was only seven per cent.

\* Mr. Iwasaki made this statement in April 1878, only three years ago; an important correction. Ed. J. G.



These facts appear to me to prove conclusively that government perils and large issues of paper had little or no influence. Further, according to Mr. Okuma's reports, there were more kinsatsu in circulation before June 1878 than there have been at any time since. Yet after the maximum issue the discount still remained small, and it was only when the amount in circulation had been reduced by more than ten per cent. that the value of satsu fell rapidly.

"T. W." then urged that until recently kinsatsu were convertible at par, and this during the period when, according to the *Herald*, they ought to have had their lowest value. To this the *Herald* replied by alluding to the time required for new paper to find its way to the treaty ports where the rates of exchange are determined; and casually mentioning the influence of the national banks upon the currency.

The object of both writers evidently is to trace the true sources of the depreciation of Japanese paper money. One adheres pertinaciously to the quality, a term we understand in this case to be synonymous with inconvertibility. The other obstinately rejects this theory, and holds to the more plausible one of quantity. To assert that a reasonable sum of inconvertible paper will not circulate at par with the coin it represents, is to oppose universal experience and the authoritative opinions of the best text writers; and appears as untenable as the opposite assertion that convertibility is of no moment to the holders of currency, "who accept it without a thought of its ultimate redemption." The essentials to a thorough understanding of the question seem to us to be, quantity, quality, issue, and circulation, all of which have to be considered because, intimately connected with each other, they exert in some cases a separate, and in others a partially or completely united influence upon our currency.

When the first issues were made the government gradually absorbed the metallic medium and substituted paper. These notes passed from hand to hand; they were required in the ordinary course of trade; the debt expressed on the notes was trusted; and no question of "quality" arose for the simple reason that a sufficiency of silver remained in the country circulating side by side with paper. The issues were, however, continued, the government employing this resource as a mere temporary substitute for taxation to an equivalent amount, and continued to do so until metallic money had been entirely superseded. Arrived at this point the temptation to continue was irresistible, and fresh issues were made which, not being readily exchangeable as formerly for specie, required more time to enter into circulation. Had the government issue been in gold, the addition of any sum beyond the normal requirements of the nation would have led to a rise in prices equally with the rise which followed the emission of surplus paper currency. The tendency of this state of things with a metallic currency, is increased importation and diminished exportation. Money being cheap here would naturally flow to countries where it was dear. This natural cause has an opposite effect when the currency is inconvertible. Prices rise, but artificially. JOHN STUART MILL says:—

An inconvertible paper acts in the same way as a convertible, while there remains any coin for it to supersede: the difference begins to manifest itself when all the coin is driven from circulation (except what may be retained for the convenience of small change) and the issues still go on increasing. When the paper begins to exceed in quantity the metallic currency which it superseded, prices of course rise; things which were worth 5*l.* in metallic money, become worth 6*l.* in inconvertible

paper, or more as the case may be. But this rise of price will not stimulate import and discourage export. Imports and exports are determined by the metallic prices of things, not by the paper prices: and it is only when the paper is exchangeable at pleasure for the metals, that paper prices and metallic prices must correspond.

Inconvertibility was only recognized in Japan when the amount of notes issued was on a scale sufficient to have induced increased importation had the currency been a precious metal. There being no outlet for the surplus currency its depreciation became inevitable. Excessive quantity naturally drew attention to the quality, and both combined to establish a discount sufficient to reduce the value of the issue to a level with the sum required for circulation. This is the discount, which fluctuates as more or less money is required for the nation's needs; as trade increases or diminishes; as the seasons are fruitful or barren. The question is not one of quality alone. If the notes were convertible depreciation could not take place, because the surplus issue would be returned to the issuers to be exchanged into gold for export, or to be deposited in banks' treasuries, and the volume, the quantity, would be restored to its normal condition. Fresh issues in Japan, beyond the sum the nation supported at par, so far as we have been able to trace their circulation, have had the inevitable effect of reducing the value of the whole, and have afforded proof that quantity first, and quality afterwards, are the true causes of depreciation. Will either "T. W." or the *Herald* be inclined to dispute the proposition that, assuming an issue of 150 millions establishes a rate of 160, the addition of 50 millions will have any other material tendency, when absorbed into circulation and the currency has had time to settle, than to lower the rate of exchange to 215 or thereabouts?

We do not think either "T. W." or the *Herald* has taken the trouble to examine the mischief wrought by the national banks. The former lays stress upon depreciation being smallest when the issue was at its maximum, and greatest during the process of contraction: while the latter endeavours to meet this by an imperfect allusion to the issues of the banks, omitting to show how those issues obtained circulation and influenced the position and value of government paper. The statements of the ex-finance minister, H. E. OKUMA, show that on July 1st, 1878, the sum of government paper had attained its maximum, namely 121,054,731 yen. The rate of exchange then stood at about 107, at which figure it remained fairly steady until the early part of September, when a new force was brought to bear upon it. National banks, as most of our readers are aware, must invest eighty per cent. of their capital in the purchase of national bonds, and upon the latter being deposited in the treasury notes to an equivalent sum may be issued by the depositors. These notes are secured by being made exchangeable at the treasury on demand for kinsatsu, and they consequently float side by side with government issues. At the close of 1876 there were five banks with aggregate capitals of 2,850,000 yen, and note issue of 2,319,998 yen. In 1877, twenty-one new banks, capital 22,016,100 yen, and note issue of 19,932,863 yen; and in 1878, sixty-nine new banks, capital 10,675,000 yen, and note issue 7,405,135 yen, were founded. These ninety-five banks had, therefore, an aggregate note issue of 29,657,996 yen. Little if any real banking business was done by these institutions, the officers and shareholders being content to draw their interest upon capital bonds from the government, and

make whatever they could in addition by usurious loans and speculations in rice and, finally, in currency. Their note issue was more or less nominal, for the banks' notes did not circulate to any considerable extent, there being a sufficiency of currency for trade requirements without the national banks' paper. We must, therefore, regard the issue in September 1878 as 150 millions of yen in round figures; but that sum did not represent the circulation, circulation alone affecting the exchangeable value of an inconvertible currency, and accounting for the rate of exchange ruling at any given time.

On the 9th September 1878 the government issued a notification permitting the mortgage and sale of pension bonds, and assessing rates of discount at which those bonds would be bought up by the finance department. The immediate consequence of this was to create a demand for currency against bonds, and early in October the native press announced that since the issue of the notification the sales to September 29th did not exceed 700,000 yen; but, on the following day, sales reached 29,361,715 yen; of which 28,941,065 yen was the proportion of purchases made by the national banks, and 420,650 yen by private persons. That other sales took place causing paper held by the government in reserve to enter into circulation there is little doubt; but the hostile criticism of the foreign press led to the suppression of further information. Here, however, we can account for a sum of 30 millions of yen, which up to that time existed only as an issue, entering at once into circulation. What was the consequence? Exchange, which stood at 109 on September 9th, the day the notification was issued, declined to 121 on October 23rd. From this point a slight improvement took place, but a sensible rise in prices then set in and followed the demand of those persons who were endeavouring to utilize the money received for bonds which had previously been unnegotiable. The national bank notes were almost suddenly transformed from issue into circulation, and the augmented currency sought an outlet which could only be found in its exchange for metallic money which could be sent to countries where it would be dearer than in Japan. But redemption was impossible. To get rid of the currency the holders consented to a discount, which must increase until the value of the volume of currency is equalised with the value of the trade it is required to perform: and to this it would have descended, and restored a steadiness to exchange months ago, had it not been for official interference with the natural course of events. This interference has been the source of serious depression, the effect of uncertainty of value; and the troubles have been augmented by the establishment of more note-issuing banks, no less than fifty-eight additional having been founded in 1879 and 1880.

Looking at the part these banks have played in the game of depreciation, we cannot follow "T. W." in his statement that when the issue of paper was at its maximum, depreciation was lowest; and as redemption began the value of the remainder of the currency declined. That government paper alone would have been liable to further discount than the quoted rate in August 1878 is likely enough; but that the mere quality, the inconvertibility of that issue, would have brought about a decline to 180 we cannot accept even as a possibility. The notification of September 9th, 1878, and the establishment of the national



banks, are the primary causes of depreciation.

We confess that when "T.W." addressed the public through these columns, we were partly inclined to endorse the theory of quality; but reflection shows in the strongest light that if the vice of *kinsatsu*—the impossibility of redemption—is to be regarded as the cause of depreciation, the objection to them which holds good to-day had equal force when the first note was issued. Suspicion of the *quality* never arose until the *quantity* compelled the holder to have resort to the issuer. There he found no assets; and to make use of his capital he has had to submit to its diminution by giving away eighteen or twenty yen for the same commodities for which he formerly paid only ten.

The view we take of this question is formed after very full consideration of arguments which are certainly worthy of it; and the conclusion to which we arrive is that, if an inconvertible currency can be made to do duty as money at all, it will pass on a par with real money so long as the notes issued are limited to the number which the public would retain without sending in for payment if convertible. The government are debtors to that amount, and they are trusted to that amount; but the situation is entirely changed the moment that amount is exceeded. Then, and then only, is the question of quality raised.

## Miscellaneous Articles.

### TOKIO DAIGAKU.

**F**OREMOST among the various sources towards which a Japanese student can look for an education higher than that afforded in ordinary schools is the University of Tokio. A short time ago we received a copy of the calendar of this institution\* for which we offer our best thanks to its talented president Mr. H. KATO. As this is the first opportunity we have had of an insight into the working of this establishment, we have turned over the pages of the book with considerable pleasure, and must certainly congratulate its president, and all who are connected with it, both past and present, on the high position which it has evidently attained.

The first point which attracted attention in the calendar lying before us was its size, it being a thick volume of nearly 600 pages. Until we opened it and found one portion to be a translation of the original which is written in Japanese, we felt that the well known calendars of the Imperial College of Engineering, with which we have been previously favoured, had been eclipsed. No doubt these large calendars, when they can be afforded, have their advantages, especially perhaps in countries where the nature of institutions like universities and engineering schools are not well understood. Be it as it may, however, we feel assured that the calendars of many European institutions err in being too small.

The University of Tokio appears to be now called the Tokio Daigaku.

What's in a name? that which we call a rose, by any other word would smell as sweet.

A sentiment like this may, in other countries, perhaps find justification; judging by

the various names by which the University of Tokio has been designated, we should say there must be more than ordinary individuals dream of in a name; and names, like dresses, need changing with the seasons. The various names which have been used to designate this institution may be judged of briefly from the following extracts from the "History of the University," which history forms the introduction to the calendar. From it we epitomize the following:—

In 1744 an observatory was established at Kanda. After many changes two observatories were established at Asakusa, and on the hill at Kudan. From these observatories, where night watchers traced the heavenly spheres through space illimitable, it would seem that the present university had its inception. This being so, it appears strange that the science which gave it birth should have been so long neglected, and a professional astronomer not added to the professional staff until quite recently. In 1811 a translation office (*Honyaku Kioku*) was instituted at the observatory. In 1855 this office was separated from its parent and taken off to Kudanzakashita. In 1856 the name became *Bancho-shirabejo* or the office for examining foreign books. In 1857 not only were foreign books examined but instruction was given in the English, French, German and Russian languages, and courses in mathematics, botany and chemistry were successively established. At this period of its germination the institution first assumed the aspect of a college. In 1862 new buildings were erected at Gojingahara No. 4, Hitotsubashi-soto; and the name became *Yoshio Shirabejo* or institute for examining foreign books. In 1867 the name of the institution appeared before the public as the *Kaiseijo*. It was in this year that the first foreign teacher, a Mr. GARATAMA of Holland, was employed, for a short time. In 1868 the institution was completely hidden by its abolishment. Shortly afterwards it was re-established by the present government. In 1869 it was known as the *Daigaku Nanko* or South College; subsequently it was simply called *Nanko*. About this time the institution was again closed. In 1872 the name of the institution appears to have reached a climax with the title *Daiichi Daigaku Daiichiban Ohu-gaku* or the First Middle School of the First Grand Educational District. The year after it was known as the *Kaisei-gaku*; and the year after that as the *Tokio Kaisei-gaku*; and in 1878, as the *Tokio Daigaku*—the name by which it is at present known.

Now this repetition of names, although at first sight whimsical, and likely to create confusion amongst strangers, has its value, inasmuch as each of them is a land-mark in the history of the establishment, telling of changes in the method of instruction, in the government, and the like.

The only important scientific discovery which is recorded in the history of the institution, a record which appears somewhat invincible, is the discovery of the shell heaps at Omori by Professor MORSE. On this occasion, however, the name of the institution instead of becoming the *Tokio Kaigaku* firmly resisted the innovation.

The institution as it now stands, embraces departments of law, science, literature, and medicine. About the latter department, which we believe is, so far as foreigners are concerned, carried on by German professors solely, we see nothing in the volume before us.

The courses of instruction, each of which extends over a period of four years, which are

given in each of these departments, appear to be as good as they are extensive. In the departments of law in addition to the subjects of logic, history, philosophy and the like, Japanese, French and English law appear in all their branches.

As we presume that many of the graduates of this department will eventually fill important judicial positions in this country, it would seem advisable that special training should be given in the codes which are subsequently to become their working tools. No doubt this point is fully recognised. In the scientific course the students of the first year appear to follow the same line of study. Amongst the subjects taught, are mathematics (which, for some occult reason, appears to be confined to analytical geometry) mechanics, astronomy, chemistry, logic, &c. For the remaining three years the student follows one of six special courses. These are 1. chemistry; 2. mathematics, physics, and astronomy; 3. biology; 4. engineering; 5. geology; 6. mining and metallurgy. Turning over the pages we come to more detailed accounts of the various departments. In that of literature, we find that the literature of Japan, China, and England are each treated of. With this we get the constitutional history of England, Roman and Grecian history, political economy, philosophy of various descriptions &c. In chemistry, after a student has become more or less practised in the arts, we observe with pleasure that his attention is amongst other things drawn to the examination of native products like *sake*, *mirin*, &c. Chemical technology which also, no doubt, is a very important subject for this country, is very fully treated. The names we see like the azo and diazo compounds, and phenanthrene are to the uninitiated alarming, but still lead to useful study. When we turn to mathematics we feel more alarmed, for the array of text books ought certainly to frighten a wrangler. With quantics and quartics, and a few of the newer inventions, the list would be complete. Some of the subjects named make us dubious as to what the professor of natural philosophy will have left to do. The professor of mathematics we may remark is Mr. DAIBOKU KIKUCHI, a gentleman who it will be remembered took high honours at Cambridge. We congratulate the university on having in its ranks so accomplished a professor. In physics also the course appears to be very thorough, and judging from the text books, tolerably exhaustive. Next comes astronomy, the science which was the mother of the institution. The work appears to be not only theoretical but also practical, there being a well equipped observatory in connection with this department. After this we come to the courses on botany and zoology, both of which, like astronomy, involve work which is practical as well as theoretical. These are followed by an outline of the subjects followed by the students of civil and mechanical engineering. During the first two years of study these two courses are identical, but at the beginning of the last year the classes are separated. Here amongst the subjects which are taught, we find a repetition of some of those which appear to be taught by the professor of mathematics. No doubt each professor has his particular method of teaching, and to illustrate the same principles in different manners will be highly beneficial.

Looked at by an outsider the courses to which we now refer appear to be pastures where students may roam about gleaning fragments here and there without attaining any particular goal in their professions. It is possible, however, that pleasant wan-

\* Tokio Daigaku. (University of Tokio.) The Calendar of the departments of Law, Science, and Literature. 2510-41 (1880-81). Published by the University.



dering like this may be provided against; still taking the syllabus of the studies as they stand, and comparing for a moment the first of the courses here indicated with the corresponding courses followed out at the Imperial College of Engineering,—we make our comparison with this institution because it is near and familiar to us, though we might equally make it with very many others,—we see that after two years of general study in science, a student has to elect for his engineering specialty one of the following branches; civil engineering, mechanical engineering, telegraph engineering, or architecture. In the university, engineering appears to be divided into either civil or mechanical. For two years the courses are similar. During the last year they are separated and the mechanical engineering students spend nine months at the Yokosuka dockyard. In the Imperial College of Engineering, after a student has spent two years at his special subject he spends two more years, making a total of four years study, at practical work as determined by the department of Public Works of which this institution is an offshoot.

We do not point this out so much for the sake of showing the superior opportunities which a student of the Engineering College possesses over a student of the University in becoming thorough in a particular subject, as for the purpose of the bearing it has upon a subject we shall presently refer to. Before leaving this matter altogether we will call attention to the practical nature of some of the questions which appear in the examination papers. How do you make gravel roads? And how do you make mortar? are questions on which the professor of engineering is to be congratulated. To be able to give satisfactory answers to questions of this description, appears of far more value to a Japanese student than his being able to solve a differential equation relating to the deflection of a beam. The subject of drawing, which is certainly of importance to nearly all students, appears to receive considerable attention. The courses in geology, which comprise mineralogy, crystallography, paleontology, lithology, and many other branches appear also to be treated fully. When the writer of the syllabus remarks that "some account is given of Japanese rocks and fossils. Dana's Manual is used." We must confess we can only follow the writer's ideas confusedly. In mining and metallurgy we again find a course which is not only theoretical but at the same time practical. Not only are ores assayed, but small furnaces have been erected to illustrate certain metallurgical processes, with dressing machinery for the cleansing of ores. In the course in philosophy we observe with interest the attempt to cause the student to generalize so that he shall eventually be in a position to study details by himself. In political philosophy the student is led to a great extent to the consideration of the practical aspect of the subject. The various functions of government, the history of political institutions and the like, are treated of at some length. How far these studies are at present suited to the rising generation of Japan is with some a question of considerable moment. We are prepared to argue that, although they may tend to bring about more or less mental disquietude in the minds of students respecting the present order of affairs, eventually it would seem that they must be very beneficial. In political economy we are glad to observe that the students are educated in general principles rather than in those of

one particular school. This at least will give them the opportunity of seeing the advantages which accrue from free trade and of comparing it with the restricted system under which the commercial interests of this country are waning.

The last subjects are history, and Japanese, Chinese, and English literature, also French and German. In the history course the histories of Rome and Greece form the special studies.

This brings us to the end of the various subjects which members of the university have opportunities of studying.

A student on entering the college must be at least sixteen years of age and have completed the required course prescribed in the preparatory school which is attached to the university, or else show by examination the same degree of proficiency which students from that school are expected to attain.

The expenses per term (of which there are three in the year) including tuition fee, cost of living, fire, and light, are about 18 yen (or two guineas sterling) per term. The tuition fee alone is four yen. Education in Germany is cheap, but let us ask where in this world can any similar set of studies under a staff of able professors, with the advantages of an extensive library and laboratories, be followed out for the same sum of money as it can be done for in Japan? The answer is, nowhere. In the matter of cheap and really good education Japan certainly stands preëminent, and sets an excellent example to nations of far greater pretensions.

In one portion of the calendar we observe several pages devoted to a description of the system by which students are marked. Although we have read this carefully we must confess ignorance of the system. No doubt it is scientifically correct, but like the reduction of a set of observations by the method of least squares, it is certainly very puzzling to those uninitiated in its mysteries.

At the end of the book we find a long series of examination papers. Comprehensive as many of these papers appear to be, certainly many of them do not seem to involve a study of all the text books which are prescribed in some of the courses. Respecting the array of text books which are given, in the descriptions of the various courses, might we not ask whether it would not have been better to have called many of them reference books, to be referred to when required? It is our opinion, and we think also that of many others, that if a student wishes to obtain excellence in any particular subject he has a better chance of doing so by adherence to one well selected text book than by roving about amongst many.

Another point which we cannot pass by without mention is the unusual preponderance of typographical errors, ill compensated for by three closely printed pages of *errata*. Thus students are asked to enunciate the principle of *vertical velocities*: to prove that the *push* of a projectile is a parabola: find vertical height of the *focus end* of the vertex: to determine the *velocity* of a body after impact and the *index* of elasticity: a body *describe* an *eclipse* under the force in the focus; find, &c. Speaking of cephalopoda, students are asked which are the *ermost* important genera, &c., &c., &c. We sincerely hope that papers like these were presented to the students in Japanese and that these are subsequent translations. We do not wish to be invidious, for in other papers the misprints are equally remarkable. Thus we find *Lami*, *Rankin*, *doctorine*,

*Charles's laws*, *microscopy*, *supplies*, &c., &c. These and very many other errors which have crept in, over and above three closely printed pages of *errata*, can hardly be said to embellish this valuable volume issued by the highest educational institution in Japan. Before the next calendar appears we would strongly recommend the appointment of a proof reader.

The number of students in the college appears to be 205. The number of teachers who are ranked as professors, lecturers, translators, professors extraordinary, and assistant professors, is 42. This means that on an average there are 4.8 students to one instructor. In this calculation we have not included assistants to the professors who also may possibly take some share of the teaching. Out of these 42, twelve are foreigners, eight of whom are engaged in science. In science alone there are altogether 20 teachers to 111 students, or on an average 5.5 students to the instructor. In the Imperial College of Engineering, which is mainly an institution for instruction in science, there appear to be 13 teachers of scientific subjects to 197 students, or more than 15 students to one instructor. Taking these results as being correct, it would appear that there is more economy in the expenditure of teaching power in the Department of Public Works than in the department whose specialty is that of education,—their relative values being as 3 to 1.

The expenses of teaching in all departments is no doubt largely dependent upon the number of foreigners employed. As the majority of foreigners in these institutions are teaching the same subject the scientific portions of these two departments might in some way be united (rumours of pending changes of this description have from time to time reached us). In such case no doubt the government might obtain results as good if not even better than those which are now being obtained, and at the same time economise to the extent of say 50,000 dollars per annum. The only question to be answered is, how is such a result to be obtained? No doubt the Department of Public Works is anxious to retain possession of an institution which has been reared at considerable expense until it has become valuable to them, whilst the Department of Education feels that the privilege of educating young Japan has been infringed upon. Should the Educational Bureau put forward claims of this description, if reasoning by analogy has any weight, a reference to the position which similar schools in Europe hold to the government would quickly dispel all arguments. The question to be settled in a matter of this description however, is not so much what other countries do, as it is what Japan should do, to save a certain sum of money.

We should be inclined to argue that the university ought to give up its character of a technical school, and let technics be taught by the departments where a knowledge of such subjects is required. In addition to government cadets at such a school, as at the government schools of other countries, private students might also be admitted. Under the circumstances, the university ought, we think, to cease aiming at being a school for teaching the applied sciences, and confine itself to arts and sciences such as we see in the universities of other countries.

If this were done the staff of the Engineering College might be increased and its course of instruction elaborated. Already it is the college where its staff of instructors,



as we have already shown, have the best opportunities for giving instruction in that which is professed, and where teaching power is best economized. After the union, the opportunities for instruction might be increased and teaching power still more advantageously expended.

In making these remarks we by no means wish to disparage the University by our comparison, for we could make others from which the sister institution might receive some valuable hints. We and others regard both these institutions as being excellent, as is testified alone by these calendars, and they are undoubtedly institutions which have already made a permanent impression in the annals of education. We wish them both all possible success.

### SANITARY REFORM.

I think it is time that public attention should be called to a most commendable duty which the Japanese authorities began well, but in which their interest now seems to flag. I mean the sanitary improvement of Yokohama and its neighbourhood, and the work begun by the Board of Health appointed in 1879, during the epidemic of cholera and diarrhoea then prevailing. This apathy on the part of the Japanese authorities, if continued, will undoubtedly lead to the most serious results, and in a far larger proportion to the Japanese than to the foreign residents. Still any one of us may some day owe his life to such precautions as have already been advised by the Board, and which it will be well to urge upon public attention. In this matter we, equally with the Japanese, are bound by physical laws to many conditions affecting air, water, houses, soil, and drainage, which characterize the climate of Japan, or are modified by Japanese habits of life.

I think therefore, it is advisable to briefly recapitulate the observations and advice of the Sanitary Board. Such action may call forth suggestions from others, and at all events requires no apology as the matter is really one of vital interest and importance. If there is any one point on which the government of a country have a supreme right to enforce laws it is that of sanitary legislation.

The Sanitary Board began its labours by making regulations specially directed against the epidemic then existing and spreading in Japan; such as the disinfection of the sick and their surroundings and their treatment in hospitals which, important as they were at the time, have not now the same immediate interest. When these most urgent questions were decided on, the more deep-seated causes predisposing to the disease lying in the surrounding conditions under which the people of Yokohama were living, were investigated. It is to these causes more especially that I wish to refer, as they are still, I believe to a great extent, in existence notwithstanding the painstaking examination of the members of the Board by whom they were brought prominently to official and public notice, and by whom remedies for them were clearly pointed out and recommended to be enforced.

The recommendations of the Board may be epitomised under the following heads:—

- (1.) House to house visitation.
- (2.) Water supply.
- (3.) Market police.

The results of house to house visitation are best shown in a tabular form, the area inspected being divided into districts. Of one district I regret to say I have not been able to obtain the report.

Foreign Population	Native Population	Altitude of Site.	Soil.	Condition of Compounds and Removal of Refuse.	Condition of Buildings.	Foreigners' Servants' Quarters.	Basements.	Sinks within Houses.
Bluff District	18,179	All sufficiently high, except one low-lying swampy street	Generally good.	Native.—Most in a filthy condition. Deficiency of refuse boxes. Foreign.—Clean ..... 133 F filthy ..... 87 Removal of refuse not sufficient—regarded.	Native.—Many ruinous, and cleanliness very deficient. Foreign.—Not especially mentioned, but implied to be good where provision for carrying off rain water is made.	As a rule badly constructed, ruinous or filthy.	Native.—On, or too near the ground. Foreign.—As a rule not too low.	Native.—Several found.
Settlement District (Chinese excluded)	18,016	Raised sufficiently, is not less than three feet higher or more above high-water mark.	Solid not marshy or damp.	Native.—Clean ..... 183 More or less filthy 4,977 Foreign.—Very good ..... 63 Tolerably clean ..... 200 Decidedly filthy ..... 12 Scavenging not sufficiently good	Native.—Insufficiently repaired. Foreign.—Dwelling houses sufficiently good, but outhouses and tea-firing godowns in bad order.	As a rule not in a sufficiently solid and hygienic condition; often in a very bad and dirty state.	Native.—As a rule too low. Foreign.—Not too low or damp.	Several found.
Karafuto District	18,325	The whole district too low, and containing 73 marshes or pools.	Porous, wet, and marshy.	As a rule very defective. No refuse boxes observed.	Deficiently constructed as to material and style of building.	None.	Foundations nearly all damp.	Several found.

### General Remarks and Recommendations of Board.

*Native premises.*—Swampy places, such as the Ishikawa fish market, to be removed. Houses to have higher foundations and basements. No sinks to be allowed in or too near the houses. Thorough regulation for removal of house refuse from compounds. Impermeable closets to be made compulsory. Permeation of soil surrounding wells and their contamination by rotting wooden well-tubes to be guarded against. Wooden drains are defective.  
*Foreign premises.*—Servants' quarters are too much neglected; they should be better constructed and repaired and kept cleaner. Removal of refuse should be more effectually carried out. Closets are very bad, impermeable ones only should be used. Several wells are polluted, and several drains defective.  
*Native premises.*—Houses should have higher foundations and basements. Special sanitary supervision required in several places. The use of impermeable closets should be enforced. Well water should not be used for drinking. Drains want repairing and cleaning. No sinks should be allowed in the houses. Society for improving artisans' dwellings recommended.  
*Foreign premises.*—More provision required for carrying off rainwater from compounds. Better construction, cleanliness, and ventilation of tea-firing godowns and outhouses required. Refuse boxes or brick ashpits desirable in every compound. Impermeable closets, or the pit system should be always adopted. Closet scavenging deficient. Well water should not be drunk, but the aqueduct extended. House drains and sinks to be more frequently cleaned.  
Ground must be raised at least 2 feet. 73 marshes must be removed. Foundations and basements must be raised. Dangerous houses must be destroyed, and *magaya*, theatres, tea-houses and lodging houses should be better constructed and arranged, and kept in better repair. Fish, meat, liquor, and drug shops require rigorous inspection. Impermeable closets or the pit system must be enforced, and closet cleaning and scavenging thoroughly carried out. Drainage must be reformed. Society for improving artisans' dwellings recommended. Drinking water should be supplied by aqueduct. Well-qualified local sanitary inspectors should be appointed. No effective means for preventing epidemics can be taken unless the above recommendations are carried out.

Drains.	Closets.	Walls.
Native.—Clean & properly constructed... 20 Unclean or defective ..... 185 Foreign.—Clean & properly constructed(?) 773 Defective, dirty, rotten or absent ..... 126 Unmentioned ..... 2	Native houses.—Deficient in number. Clean and properly constructed 16 Unclean and defectively constructed ..... 1,111 Foreign houses.—Efficient ..... 31 Defective ..... 176  Native houses.—Mostly very badly constructed and dirty. Clean and properly constructed 425 Dirty or defective ..... 4,187 Foreign houses.—Good ..... 280 Bad ..... 431	Native.—Clean ..... 256 Polluted ..... 342 Foreign.—Clean ..... 127 Polluted ..... 59  Foreign.—Medium quality or only used for washing ..... 175 Polluted ..... 71 Native.—Not polluted 153 Polluted ..... 502  For drinking ..... None. For washing ..... 807

Of the worst description being mostly short drains ending in cesspits.  
Clean ..... 844  
Dirty or defective ..... 4,573



In reading this table particular attention should be given to the last column containing the chief remarks of the members of the Sanitary Board, as they sum up in a few words almost all the evils and defects of the present neglected state of sanitation in Yokohama.

It is a fair question for the public to ask, after such reports and recommendations have been made, what are the results? Have any local sanitary inspectors been appointed? Are people still allowed to live with cesspools inside their actual dwelling houses? Have the most notoriously bad places been improved; the Ishikawa fish market, the lodging houses, theatres, fish and meat shops of Karafuto? Is the aqueduct being extended to the eastern parts of the settlement? Will the low-lying ground near Yokohama be elevated before building on it is allowed? Are scavenging and closet cleaning carried out more effectually? Or was the appointment of this Sanitary Board, with the governor of Kanagawa ken as its president, only a little farce which is to be enacted whenever the scare of an epidemic reaches head-quarters?

**Drains.**—When a house is built it frequently happens that the builder, as a matter of course, puts down wooden gutters and covers them with earth, in what he considers the most convenient directions. Their whereabouts becomes forgotten, and as they gradually rot away their leakage forms what are practically nearly as bad as cesspools at various points of their course. This is all utterly wrong. Stone-ware pipes are best, but if wooden drains are used they should be periodically opened and inspected; and in either case, whether wooden gutters, earthen or stone-ware pipes, or brick drains are in use, a plan showing their exact situation and direction should be made and always kept for reference.

It should be clearly understood in these matters how much if any repairs are to be done by the tenant, and how much by the landlord; if the latter is responsible he should, from time to time, inspect his property during its occupation by the tenant, who should afford him every facility for thorough examination of the premises. Now that, as we may hope, the necessity of a thorough state of repair is admitted on all sides, it might ensure correct drainage, and perhaps save many disputes if some recognised authority should decide as to what repairs are necessary, and that until such repairs are effected the house should not be allowed to be used.

**Elevation of Sites.**—This is a very important point both to the present and the future sanitary state of Yokohama. In their report on Karafuto the Board say "an efficient system of drainage and scavenging will only become of use after the soil in this section of the town has been sufficiently raised:" and again, "as this valley will in the future doubtless become the direction in which Yokohama will extend further, it seems to us very desirable if not a necessity to raise the ground there in time, before allowing the people to build houses on the same." It would, I suppose, be visionary to look forward to the time when a thick belt of *Eucalypti* would purify the air of that river of concentrated malaria that, rising from a thousand manure-laden paddy fields, now disgorges itself over Yokohama with every southerly breeze; but possibly to plant such a belt would not cost very much. That such a belt would be highly beneficial seems not too much to infer from the experiments lately made by the Trappists in the Pontine Marshes at Rome.

**Drainage of Sites.**—This is also a question of fundamental importance. While Mr. Mita, engineer to the Kanagawa ken, proposed (twentieth meeting) the water carriage system "of drain-sewers if possible with tide-gates "and sluices, or with a pumping station at "the outfall," if necessary, the general sense of the foreign members of the Board was in favour of collecting the sewage in tanks and disposing of it by irrigation. At the twenty-second meeting Mr. Mita brought forward further details of his proposed plan, and the Board requested him "to furnish some "information about the probable cost of the "meter-tank-system."

The two subsequent meetings contain no further mention of this important subject which, however, is in detail more an engineering than a medical one.

**Scavenging.**—A committee was appointed (twenty-first meeting) to frame rules for a complete system of scavenging, but as pointed out by Dr. Geerts at the last meeting they had not then sent in their report.

But little comment is needed. The main sanitary defects and their remedies have been so abundantly pointed out by the Board that it only remains now to take action on their advice. To detail further minutiae or enter into refinements of construction would be, for the present, waste of time; the Japanese have been plainly warned, and on their own head will be the blame if another epidemic should find them as defenceless as it did before. Mention should be made here of the obstructive attitude assumed by the Chinese to all sanitary reform. They would not allow their houses to be visited, so that consequently no reforms could be suggested as to their premises and houses, though the Board expressed the opinion that they "were most justly in want of a better sanitary arrangement." This might be met in the future by certain preliminary conditions as to sanitary arrangements and inspection to which every purchaser of land, Chinese or otherwise, must consent before entering into possession or building on his holding.

(2.) **Water supply.**—At the twelfth meeting of the Board, "Dr. Geerts communicated "the results of the analysis of the water of "the aqueduct, since the repairs of the tubes "up to Sakuragi-bashi had been finished. "The water as it now flows through the "tubes, is not clear, on account of small red "clay and sand-particles suspended in the "same. But these clay particles excepted, "the water had proved to be of an excellent "quality, very pure, without any trace of "pollution. The water wanted only to stand "still for a certain time, or to be filtered in "order to remove the suspended clay particles. Then it becomes perfectly clear. "As the water in the aqueduct is not now "clear but turbid, people are thinking unjustly that it is not fit to drink, whilst it is "even in its present unfiltered state much better "than any well-water of lower Yokohama. As "it is much to be regretted, that such pure "water as that of the Tama-gawa should not "be filtered before entering the tubes, Dr. "Geerts proposed to remedy the matter, "especially as it could easily be done, and as "it is of great importance." Having inspected the aqueduct and the reservoir at Kashimada, Dr. Geerts reported (thirteenth meeting), that the water was only turbid from the presence of suspended particles of red clay and sand, and that when these were separated "by allowing the water to subside during 24-36 hours "the water was "of an excellent quality and far better for drinking purposes than the water of most wells in Yokohama." To effect the

removal of suspended material Dr. Geerts advised a filtering tank, or one for subsidence before the water was allowed to enter the main, and at the same time that the carrying tubes should be freed from all causes "which might allow the entrance of dust or sand into the tubes" on its way. At the nineteenth meeting the governor of Kanagawa ken said that the money required for the reservoirs (from 30,000 to 88,000 yen), "could not easily be found at the moment" and therefore he advised filtration at the houses after distribution. At that meeting it was decided to try and find a cheaper means of purifying the water. At the twentieth meeting this was estimated to be possible at a cost of 2,900 yen, and the process, if the shareholders would vote the money, could be undertaken, but not until then.

As to Wyckoff pipes for water carrying, it appears, from reports of meetings eighteen and nineteen, that experiments were to be made at the Kosaka-bun-kiyoku in Tokio to test their worth and value as compared with cast iron tubes; also, whether they can be made in Japan from Japanese materials.

At the twenty-fourth and last meeting of the Board a report of these experiments had not been made, but there can be little doubt there is no real obstacle in the way of placing good drinking water within the reach of every one. It is only an extension and improvement of an already existing arrangement that is wanted, and it is a matter for due consideration whether the Japanese government might not guarantee a minimum dividend to the shareholders. The government cannot in fairness evade the question of water supply, for surely they would not yield their right to close polluted wells in the interests of public health, and if they do this they ought to provide other sources of supply. It is, however, hardly advisable that the whole of Yokohama settlement and neighbourhood should be supplied from one source. Two, or perhaps even three, separate sources would be a safeguard against any contaminating influence which might occur in one only. While remedies were being applied there would be one or more separate sources to satisfy immediate wants, while at the same time a comparison of the disease-rate or death-rate in the districts supplied by different waters would often give a valuable clue to water contamination; and the source of such diseases as spread through water contamination which might be of the greatest use in times of epidemics. It is matter worthy of consideration whether tanks, supplemented if necessary by wells, might not be built on Noge hill and some part of the bluff beyond the concession to foreigners from which water might be readily laid on to the villages beneath.

I am informed that some four months ago or so, the Yokohama Fire Brigade asked the Kencho for water from the aqueduct. Indeed, the frequency of fires in Yokohama is an additional inducement for providing a copious water supply, while the elevation of the surrounding hills is such as to give pressure enough to make the water often independent of any engine power. I believe the Fire Brigade have not as yet received a reply.

In the autumn of last year the Kencho were requested to supply water from the aqueduct to the buildings on the new swamp. This request was signed by all the owners of premises in that quarter, many of whom employ hundreds of Japanese in their tea firing establishments; but no answer has yet been given.

(3.) **Market Police.**—At the fourth meeting



of the Board a committee was appointed to draw up regulations for a system of market police, and it was suggested by Dr. Geerts that inspectors of nuisances should be appointed to seize articles unfit for food, and in doubtful cases to refer them to the Benten Sanitary Laboratory. In the reports of subsequent meetings I find, however, no further mention of the matter until the last meeting, when it is enumerated amongst other things as being still left undone.

I think inspectors of nuisances should be appointed each for a small district, and that they should report to a medical officer of health who should have general sanitary control of several such districts, and thus there would be a staff of inspectors and health officers comprising, in their united districts, the whole neighbourhood. The health officers should be foreign qualified medical men and members *ex-officio* of the Board of Health, and their recommendations as to the removal of nuisances and sanitary reform should be supported by the authority of the Japanese government.

While the inspectors collect information as to the existence of nuisances, the pollution of water, the sale of bad articles of food or bad drugs, the existence or reputed existence of contagious, infectious, or epidemic disease and of over crowding, the health officer should be the person to whom this information is brought, by whom it is to be sifted, and on whose advice reforms should be carried out; while some sort of record of the sanitary condition of the district should be kept, reports being made every quarter to the health board. I consider this recommendation of Dr. Geerts' that inspectors of nuisances should be appointed, if they are made responsible to duly qualified foreign medical men, as health officers, as the most important one of all in the view of organizing and making permanent what evidently has a great tendency to be only spasmodic. But it is essential for its success that the Japanese government should back up the health officers in every way and not allow their advice to become a dead letter. Whatever system of scavenging be adopted it will always be liable to miscarry without the constant practical criticism, so to say, which the inspector of nuisances would keep up. To sum up, I would strongly urge that the Japanese government are in a position to make great and lasting sanitary reforms of incalculable benefit to the nation at large, if, as we may reasonably conclude, sanitary reform here will lead to it elsewhere. They have had chiefly through the energy and public spirit of the members of the Yokohama Board of Health a practical working out of sanitary inspection performed, and a practical, though as yet incomplete, system for the future planned out for them. There is no excuse for the authorities on the score of want of information; they have no guarantee against the importation of any epidemic disease tomorrow; they are "aware of the advantage" of establishing permanent boards of health" as stated by the governor of Kanagawa ken at the twenty-fourth meeting, and they were at that time (November 5th, 1879) "in consultation on the matter;" and yet—nothing has been done. To those who sincerely believe in the laws of health, attention to sanitary matters will conduce to a nation's greatness and happiness more than all other forms of civilization; legislation whether on domestic or foreign affairs, the growth of commerce, the progress of all branches of science and art, can do little to benefit the man who has

lost health. Nations, or the policy of nations, may aspire to wealth for aggrandisement, but the real value of money lies not so much in what it can give as in what it enables us to escape, cares, ill-health and too often premature death.

It may be said that it would have been better to have written directly to the authorities than to the press: but as they have not heeded the emphatic advice of the Board of Health at a time when there was a general feeling of deep anxiety as to the course of an epidemic disease rapidly spreading in their midst, can we expect them to listen to a solitary individual in a time of comparative immunity from disease?

It is to publicly expressed opinions held by numbers that we must look to rouse the inertia of the government.

W. T. BUCKLE.

#### THE "JAPAN MAIL" ON SILVER YEN.

THE action of all public bodies is open to criticism, but not to misrepresentation. The Yokohama Chamber of Commerce has of late taken no earnest part in matters of vital importance to the trade of which the chamber is supposed to be the guardian; and, as a natural consequence, individual efforts have been unsuccessfully made to effect those reforms which could have been successfully carried out by a united body of merchants. When the two banks adopted the ill-advised measure of accepting the silver yen at par with the Mexican dollar, they seem to have entirely ignored the facts that remittance is the necessary termination of importation, that Japanese silver was at a discount abroad, and that, so far as Hongkong was concerned, the legalisation of the yen there was an impossibility, inasmuch as the British government have no power, or rather would not venture to act in a manner so unconstitutional, to legalise the tender of a foreign coin in any portion of the British dominions. The only hope was that the merchants of Hongkong would agree among themselves to accept the yen and legalise it by a doubtful sort of local ordinance. There was, however, the insuperable objection that no ordinance could affect Chinese outside of the colony, and if they, the dealers in silver, kept up their preference for the Mexican dollar, the yen must perforce circulate only in Hongkong. These matters were undoubtedly contemplated by the Chamber of Commerce. One member of that body had stated that the Japanese government were most uneasy about the depreciation of paper currency, and were only too eager to apply for remedial purposes large reserves of silver yen actually lying useless in their hands from the fact of its not being current. Recommending the acceptance of the yen, Mr. WATSON added the essential proviso that the foreign community could not wisely commit themselves to the silver yen unless that coin were made current in Hongkong. From this position the chamber never receded: its resolution was to accept the yen only when made current in China. We commented on this position at the time, and endeavoured to show that Japan, not being a silver producing country, can only carry on the operation of coining at the expense of the owners of the bullion; in other words, bullion must be imported, coined, exported, and reconverted into bullion. In China there is no

mint; the melters of silver into sycee supplying the deficiency; sycee being the real circulating medium. Under such circumstances, to expect China to send her bullion to Japan to be minted into coin is to expect her to voluntarily submit to the diminution in value of her circulating medium, bullion: while a proposition or demand on the part of Japan for her coins to be made legal tender in China is equivalent to an attempt to acquire an interest in the direct taxation of the metallic currency of the latter country.

There were numbers of other good and valid reasons why the silver yen should not at present be accepted by foreign merchants at par with the dollar; and the action of the two banks created considerable surprise, preceding, as it did, the meeting of the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce when the question of admitting the yen into the colony was discussed for the first time in public. The interference with business, and the losses that must accrue from a premature acceptance of silver yen, had been fully appreciated by the Yokohama Chamber of Commerce. The banks, however, did not consult the chamber, nor did they even consult their chief constituents until after their notification had been issued. Under conditions of this sort what could the Chamber of Commerce, or any other body do? Protests are of no importance or value. The banks made a false step, and for the agreed term there is no remedy, but we may rejoice at the wholesome lesson that has been given to bankers to refrain in future from adopting measures materially affecting the interests of the public, their supporters, without previous consultation with, and the acquiescence of those primarily concerned in the matter.

This is a brief and necessarily incomplete recital of the events preceding the acceptance of the yen at par with the dollar in Yokohama; but it serves to show that the Chamber of Commerce never approved the action. The *Japan Mail*, in its first article on this subject, made a distinct charge against the chamber which we characterized as opposed to fact. "Strangest of all," said our contemporary, "this financial freak actually received the approval of the Yokohama Chamber of Commerce." When the authors of this incorrect statement were referred to the reports of the Chamber of Commerce, they answer that the reports in question were before them, and the statements made were based upon their perusal. "It is precisely because the Chamber of Commerce discriminated and yet consented that we look the liberty of expressing surprise. The committee saw 'every reason' for placing the silver yen on an equality with the Mexican dollar, 'provided it was accepted as current in China'; and further the Chamber thought the action of the banks 'somewhat regrettable' inasmuch as they had anticipated the monetization of the yen in Hongkong. From this our contemporary infers, in support of its former assertion that the chamber had actually approved the action of the banks, 'Despite this complete appreciation of the question as one of exchange the Chamber virtually approved that action by taking no further steps to oppose it.'

There is no necessity to follow this matter further. The *Mail* first says the Chamber of Commerce "actually approved" the banks' action. When challenged it says the chamber "virtually approved" because it took no steps to express disapproval. If reasoning of this sort is admissible, the whole body of merchants have approved the banks' action, for no steps have been taken to oppose it.



And that this is not the case; that, on the contrary, the merchants strongly disapprove, is as sufficiently well known to the *Japan Mail* as to the community at large.

With regard to fixed or current depositors with dollar balances at their credit, those persons had an indisputable right to demand payment in dollars. The banks' notice does not apply to past transactions, and could not even be urged in support of a repayment in yen of a deposit made in dollars prior to the issue of the notice. Subsequent to the issue of the notice, no person has deposited dollars, which are at a premium on the market here, proving beyond all doubt that two distinct coins remain in spite of the notification which was intended to make them one.

#### THE TOKIO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ON CURRENCY.

**A**FTER the article on the "Paper Currency of Japan" was in type we met with a report made by the Tokio Chamber of Commerce, at the request of the government, into the causes of the decline in value of silver and rice observable during the last two months.

The report refers to the influence of supply and demand as an invariable law which has affected these two commodities in the usual course. This is so far obvious and right, but incorrectly applying the principle to silver the chamber falls into error of a serious kind. Thus, the report says the demand for silver yen is greatest when imports exceed exports, which was the case from April to November last year. We cannot avoid expressing surprise that a body of merchants who lay much stress upon the operation of the laws of political economy should adhere to the notion that the balance of foreign commerce is in any manner connected with the fluctuations in paper. Sufficient evidence has been adduced to show that the excess of importation is the payment made by foreigners for their residence in this country; and that, as a matter of fact, silver is imported to defray the balance of trade, which is largely in favour of Japan. These indisputable truths appear, however, to be wholly ignored, as is also the true cause of the fluctuation of silver, or paper, or both. The sudden rise from 180 to 160 is ascribed to foreign trade, which is incorrect; instead of to the season of increased business, of enlarged interchange of commodities, which is correct. To illustrate this we submit to the Chamber of Commerce the paradox following for the earnest consideration of the members. Foreign trade is called adverse when imports exceed exports; when, in fact, Japan receives more than she gives away: and it is called favourable when she gives away more than she receives; exports more than she imports. Putting aside this mistaken theory, let us assume the proportion of Japanese foreign trade to be now;—imports 36; exports 28; difference 8, which Japan has to provide for; paper money 160 to 180. How is payment of this balance made? Do her merchants pay in gold or silver? The official returns prove that they do not. The true answer is, that the foreigners who conduct the business receive from Japan commodities worth 28 which they export; a portion of the balance, 8, is paid by Japan also in the form of labour rendered, commodities supplied for consumption on the spot, land rented, building material supplied, and considerations other than money. Let the present trade regulations and tariff remain

in force, but prevail upon the people to produce commodities worth 56 instead of 28; double production, in short. The effect of this would be, imports 74; exports 56; difference 18; paper money 125. Treble production, and make exports 84; imports 114; difference 30; paper money at par. This may seem absurd to persons who argue as the members of the Tokio Chamber of Commerce do. To assert that so heavy an excess of imports means an influx of wealth and the restoration of the credit of the state, appears to be a contradiction in terms, whereas it is a truism. If you enlarge your foreign business, and so long as you keep up an excess of importation, you must grow rich. You are, in such case, receiving more than you give away. Turn the course of trade to an excess of export, and it is manifest you are giving away more than you receive. Your own accounts show that in 1880 you imported worth 36,000,000 and exported worth 28,000,000; and does it not stand to reason that if these imports have passed into your hands in return for your exports, you are the gainers? Probably not gainers to the full extent, for your labour, and goods consumed by foreigners not exported, must be considered as helping in some measure to account for a payment by foreigners to you much in excess of the value of the commodities received by them from you. That an excess of import goes on is evident; that you do not pay for that excess in precious metals is clear from your own returns; that you are not indebted to the importer is certain; how then can such an excess of imports as you have at present be otherwise than beneficial to you?

If, as already supposed, you should treble your foreign commerce, you may ask, how is that to improve the position of the currency? The answer is simple. Increased trade means an enlarged demand for a circulating medium. There has been an increased trade during the past two or three months; hence the improved value of kinsatsu: the moment that trade slackens, kinsatsu will again decline. If, therefore, a permanently increased trade is established kinsatsu will be permanently improved in proportion to the increase, provided no new issues are forced into circulation; and had the Chamber of Commerce urged this upon the attention of the government instead of dwelling upon the worn out and impossible theory that foreign trade, as it stands at present, affects the condition of an internal inconvertible currency, some benefit might have resulted.

We cannot conclude this short article without asking the Chamber of Commerce to explain itself. If excessive importation is the cause of currency depreciation, how does it come to pass that during the earlier months of this year, when the "balance of trade" was in "favour" of Japan, that currency reached its lowest point? On April 1st the currency quotation was 181½. During the month of April imports exceeded exports by 1,084,724 yen, yet on May 1st the rate had risen to 169½. During the month of May imports exceeded exports by 446,431 yen, yet on June 1st the rate had reached 162. Trade returns for June are not yet published.

Finally, if fifty millions of silver dollars were paid to the merchants of Japan tomorrow, can it be supposed that the latter would rush in and buy paper in order to create a demand for it against silver? The effect of an influx of silver must be the further discrediting of paper; merchants in such a case would make their contracts among themselves for silver, using paper only for the payment of taxes. The government, be assured, could not receive any benefit from an increased

supply of silver derived from commerce unless they became themselves traders; but they would have an excellent pretext for increasing taxation and levying a certain portion thereof in specie. This can be done when Japan offers some more commodities for sale. Foreigners want your productions not your money; but your policy prevents you from having either.

#### THE HONGKONG "TELEGRAPH."

**T**HERE is a very general impression that few newspapers in the East are better conducted than the two journals published in Hongkong. The *Daily Press* is dignified, solid, impartial, and, as befits its years and standing, somewhat conservative and a supporter of the old order of things. The *China Mail* has, during the past few years, deservedly taken a foremost place. Vigorous impartiality and broad liberality of view, are the distinguishing characteristics of that journal, and, as must always be the case, these qualities are highly appreciated by a people who see in the press the best guardian of their interests and rights, which, however secure within the home dominion of the QUEEN, are apt to be sometimes invaded by, or set aside at, the caprice of officials, whose acts would pass without observation if they were not criticised, and when necessary censured, by honourable and conscientious journalists.

Hongkong is not, we should think, a place of sufficient importance to support three daily papers, and in view of the quality of the established journals, Mr. R. FRASER-SMITH displays much courage in taking the field against them; but he does so with a show of confidence in eventual success that commands our sympathy and good wishes.

The editorial matter is confined almost entirely to subjects of local interest and importance, which are treated from the stand point of a writer of very pronounced opinions, who will we much fear degenerate into a partisan, only to find, before many months pass by, that the journalistic sea can be made very stormy and treacherous. This impression, erroneous as it may be, arises from perusal of the article in the sixth number of the *Telegraph*, taking the *Daily Press* to task for its strictures and comments upon the administration of the colonial government. Disclaiming any intention of quarrelling with the *Daily Press*, the *Telegraph* continues:—

It must therefore be understood that our present observations have been elicited in the public interest, which we, however inadequately, represent to a certain extent; and as a protest against what appears to us to be a systematic, unjust, unfair, and indefensible crusade against the present head of Her Majesty's Government in this island.

The practice of styling any comments upon the acts of public men, however justifiable, an "indefensible crusade" is sufficiently familiar to newspaper conductors as the key note of the remonstrances uttered frequently by indignant correspondents who rush needlessly to defend conduct which, in the majority of cases, is its own accuser. There is something chivalrous in the *Telegraph's* promise to defend the governor of Hongkong; but it often happens that honest criticism is best left unanswered. If, however, it should be necessary to reply, the tone of a defender should be at least calm, temperate, and argumentative; and his policy should be to remove wrong impressions, honestly formed, not by denouncing the supposed authors as

libellers, but by explaining the mistaken premises on which their inferences are based. This is not the line the *Telegraph* is inclined to follow. As "Sir John Pope Hennessy's champion" it assails the *Daily Press* in this manner.

It is however one thing to differ honestly with a person of such exalted rank as His Excellency, on questions of policy which may or may not affect the public welfare, and on which you are likely enough to have the best of the argument; and quite another when the mighty powers of the press are requisitioned (we will not say prostituted) for the purpose of daily vilifying and abusing in language coarse and scurrilous the representative of Her Majesty the Queen, and all his public actions. The coarse, meaningless, undignified vituperation, which during the past fortnight has given such an unmistakable significance to the leading articles of our contemporaries, can only have one effect in well informed home circles, that of causing a reaction in Sir John Pope Hennessy's favor through inspiring experienced men with a thorough contempt for, and utter misbelief in such shallow claptrap. Of this we possess ample proof.

In the issue of the *Daily Press* dated June 14th, 16th, 17th, and 20th, appear four leading articles, which are supposed to be an analysis of, and critical commentary on the recent Census Returns. We say supposed to be, for the articles in question are simply a farrago of unintelligible rubbish, evidently intended as a mere blind, to afford the writer an opportunity of throwing a new collection of choice and elegant epithets at the Governor. The first of the series commences in the following chaste manner:—"When His Excellency Sir John Pope Hennessy makes a statement and gives it particular emphasis it usually happens that that statement will on examination be found more incorrect than most of those to which he gives utterance."

Again this style is familiar; we have met with it before; and have some ideas of our own respecting the authorship. The dictatorial self-assertive manner is at all times unpalatable to the general reader; but when it takes the following form the public are apt to speculate upon the motives prompting a gentleman to pen a paragraph which sets all decency at defiance:—

This is the *Daily Press* man's playful manner of telling an ex-Member of the British Parliament; a Knight Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, and Governor of one of the most important dependencies of the British Crown, that he is at all times a most egregious liar. If we remember rightly it was O'Connell who expressed his belief that Disraeli was a lineal descendant of the Impenitent Thief. If matters run along in the same groove much longer here, we shall have one of our omniscient leader-writers outdoing O'Connell by asserting that Sir John Pope Hennessy is the Impenitent Thief himself.

SIR JOHN POPE HENNESSY, whatever his faults, does not deserve this infliction. There is a French proverb to the effect that to excuse is to accuse; and we sincerely hope the championship which verges upon this dangerous ground is entirely self constituted; otherwise the governor will be soon impelled to follow the example of his friends the Japanese ministers, and exclaim, with all the fervour of sincerity, "Heaven deliver me from my friends."

Residents of Japan will read the following item with unusual interest.

It has often been a matter of surprise to us that the Hongkong local press have taken so little notice of the course of events in the neighbouring country of Japan. Without the shadow of a doubt Japan is far and away the best governed country, and farthest advanced in the arts and sciences of modern civilisation, of all the independent powers of Asia. Her Government, tied down most unjustly by foreign interference of a character which is much to be deprecated (and to which we will allude in detail in a special article devoted to the purpose in an early issue), have worked wonders in the internal management of the country, considering the difficulties they have had to fight

against. The trade between Hongkong and Japan, although greatly increased since the establishment of a regular and direct service by the Mitsu Bishi Mail Co.—which has proved a boon to the commercial classes in both countries—is still susceptible of vast improvement. It is therefore our intention to do all we can to foster friendly relations, and to increase trade of every description between the two countries. Moreover, as there appears to be a great deal of ignorance existing here as to the true state of affairs in the northern country, and as we feel certain that reliable information on political, commercial, agricultural, sporting, and other kindred subjects from Japan, would prove acceptable to many of our readers, we hope soon to be in a position to announce that reliable special correspondents for this journal have been established at Tokio, Yokohama, Kobe, and other places of importance.

The writer who does not hesitate to declare in this off-hand manner that Japan is "far and away the best governed country of all the independent powers of Asia," which, by the way, is not saying very much; and that "her government is tied down by foreign interference of a character much to be deprecated" will doubtless astonish us all by the soundness and comprehensiveness of his knowledge of this interesting country. We have, however, heard much of this sort of stuff before, and again seem to recognize the hidden power which drives the *Telegraph*. If the special correspondents are truthful and impartial the *Telegraph* will speedily change its hastily and erroneously conceived opinions respecting this country, its commerce and government, and we await the publication of the letters with much curiosity.

The *Telegraph* is rather too small to compare as a newspaper with either of the two Hongkong journals; but this defect is to be remedied when machinery arrives from home. No paper can be thoroughly independent that does not fairly remunerate its proprietor and editor for his labour; and it would therefore be pleasant, having regard to the bold course our contemporary intends to pursue, to see the *Telegraph* better supplied with advertisements.

## Reports.

### CLOSE OF THE EXHIBITION.

IT is now four months since the second National Exhibition was opened at Uyeno, and on Thursday afternoon (June 30th) the closing ceremony took place. The weather was fortunately fine, though somewhat too warm to be very agreeable. Thousands of people flocked to the exhibition to take a farewell ramble through the capacious buildings; and, tired with their perambulations, during the heat of the day groups of men, women and children, of all grades of society, mingled together under the refreshing and welcome shade of the trees, carefully selecting the softest stones procurable for seats, or threw themselves languidly on the damp grass. The main approach to the exhibition presented quite a gay and pleasing aspect. A simple yet neatly constructed triumphal arch of green foliage extended from one side of the road to the other, while outside every house in the neighbourhood, and across the road in transverse directions, hung lanterns of every conceivable colour.

The interior of the exhibition presented its every day appearance. On passing through the various halls we observed that, notwithstanding the high prices asked in many instances, nearly all the articles were ticketed "sold." Many, however, of the more expensive failed

to find purchasers, among which we noticed the very handsome screen exhibited by Mr. Ota Mankichi, the price asked for which is yen 3,800. This screen is undoubtedly a beautiful piece of workmanship, but to the eye of an unprofessional observer, the estimated value is not easily discernable; and the large rough crystal to be seen in the first main building, for which no less a sum than yen 10,000 is asked by its proprietor, remains among the articles which have not changed ownership. The beautiful tortoise-shell casket and vases from Nagasaki have also failed to find customers at the prices asked viz:—yen 320 for the vases and yen 250 for the casket.

We noticed yesterday a natural curiosity which has been exhibited since our first reports on the exhibition and its contents were published. It is a common barn-door fowl with a tail nine feet in length. The exhibitor, whose name has escaped us, says that the bird's tail grew so long because he washed it in warm water two or three times every day; and had it not unfortunately died when it did, he fully expected to have been able to make the tail grow a few feet longer. Our informant, Mr. Murakami,—a gentleman to whose courtesy we are so much indebted for valuable information concerning the exhibits since the commencement of the exhibition,—laughingly said that he did not care to be responsible for the accuracy of the theory advanced by the exhibitor of the bird as to the cause of the growth of the tail.

Three Koreans, in white dresses and black hats, manifested deep interest in the machinery, more especially in the cotton reeling and carding machines, which they examined very minutely and evidently regarded as very superior specimens of mechanism. By dint of broken Japanese and signs they contrived to ask many questions of a Japanese gentleman whom they succeeded in detaining by them for a short time. These Korean gentlemen were the centre of attraction of an admiring crowd, but seemed totally unconscious of the fact, so engrossed were they in the cotton machines.

At half-past three o'clock the closing ceremony took place in the pavilion constructed for ceremonial purposes. Three bands were present and took turns in enlivening the proceedings, which were very short. Prince Yoshihisa, the present representative of the house of Kita-Shirakawa-no-miya, and president of the exhibition, on his arrival stood in the centre of the dais and leisurely withdrawing a paper from his handsome uniform read in a clear and distinct voice the Japanese version of the following brief speech:—

"To-day we celebrate the closing of the second National Industrial Exhibition. I notice that it has been open one hundred and twenty days; and that the total number of persons who have visited the exhibition have exceeded eight hundred thousand. Its great success is attributable to the zealous labours of the officers, exhibitors and their assistants. Indeed our success is most remarkable when compared with that of the last exhibition, and must be a source of great joy to us all. Now you are about to return to your homes. I most heartily hope you will take with you all you have gained by this exhibition, and will continue to improve your handiwork, so that when the third exhibition is held in the future, the fruits of the present one may be observable. I, Yoshihisa, being about to leave you, give you these few words as my parting counsel."

The governor of the Tokio-fu, Mr. Matsuda, stepped into the centre of the arena, and facing prince Yoshihisa said:—

"The term of the second National Industrial Exhibition is now completed and your royal Highness, the President, has arrived to conduct the closing ceremonies, while we gather around to do homage. Through the disinterested assistance of



his Majesty the Mikado and of your Highness, the natural productions of the country and many curious articles have been brought to the exhibition from all parts. Such a happy issue could never have been consummated but for the influence of a virtuous emperor and the assistance of his wise and able ministers. When compared with the last, this exhibition has afforded great advantages towards developing industries; and should this progress continue without interruption, the promotion of political economy will be greatly benefited. Indeed, it will be the foundation of our national wealth and greatness, and will also preserve our power. Knowing this, it is by no means strange that the people should appreciate and applaud the success of the present exhibition. Notwithstanding my own ignorance I have the honour of being a partaker in these ceremonies, and my joy is so great at the success which has attended the exhibition that my heart is too full to express its emotions."

On behalf of the representatives of the various fu and ken, the governor of the Tokio fu, having finished his own speech, read the following:—

"I, Asayama, representing the committees of the Tokio-fu and other fu and ken, once heard that the civilization of a country advances with the progress of its people in knowledge; and the wealth of a nation grows with the promotion of its industries. Well, the second National Industrial Exhibition, has been held. His Majesty the Mikado, has honoured it by his presence at the distribution of prizes, and now the closing ceremony takes place and we are allowed the privilege of being present. No honour can exceed this. The articles displayed in the great buildings are the best produced in Japan. They show that the people are progressing in knowledge and skill; and their success is attributable to the influence of his Majesty the Mikado and the able assistance of your Highness. The very fact of the exhibition having improved over the last one, is sufficient guarantee that the next will be a great improvement on this. It is our duty to promote the national industries, and we intend to do the best we can with the people under our charge. We express our salutation thus."

This brought the official ceremony to a close and the people dispersed. There were no foreign officials present. In the evening there was a great display of fireworks on the pond, which attracted thousands of sightseers to the water's edge.

The exhibition being now closed we take this opportunity of thanking the committee for the many courtesies shown to our representative on all occasions, more especially by Mr. Murakami, of whose assiduous attention we have grateful recollection. An interpreter has always been at our disposal, any information asked for has always been, when possible, supplied with alacrity. Indeed, it gives us great pleasure to testify to the invariable politeness and kindness shown to us, and we believe to all representatives of the foreign press, by the officers connected with the exhibition, and we have much pleasure in making this imperfect but sincere acknowledgment of the attentions of the distinguished president, the members of the committee, and the officers attached to the Second National Industrial Exhibition.

#### SEISMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

ON Wednesday, June 22nd, the above Society held its last meeting before the coming summer holidays. The Vice-President Mr. John Milne occupied the chair. The secretary, in reading the minutes, announced names of eighteen gentlemen who had been elected members of the Society. After this a vote of thanks was passed to all those who had in any way contributed assistance towards the exhibition of seismological instruments.

Professor Ewing described a seismometer for vertical motion and exhibited a working model to illustrate the main features of the instrument. In it, as in the vertical seismograph recently described to the Society by Mr. Gray, a heavy man is pivotted at the end of a long lever, which is held up by the tension of a pair of spiral springs acting near the fulcrum of the lever, the fulcrum being fixed to the earth. The difference between Mr. Gray's instrument and Mr. Ewing's lay in the method used for producing astaticism—that is, for giving the man a practically infinitely long period in its vertical oscillation. To do this it was needful to compensate the increased tension of the springs when the weight was displaced downwards, or their decreased tension when the weight went upwards. This was effected by attaching the springs to a point not in the horizontal line of the lever but some distance below that line, so that when the weight was moved downwards through any small distance the line of action of the springs should be shifted in towards the fulcrum. This balanced the increase in the pull of the springs so that their moment about the fulcrum was unchanged, and still equal an opposite to the downward moment of the weight. Mr. Ewing showed how to find by a simple calculation the proper depth below the horizontal line for the point of attachment of the springs. The new instrument could easily be adjusted so as to secure sensibly neutral equilibrium for the weight throughout a considerable range of positions a much wider range than would be required to include actual earthquake motion.

Mr. Gray called attention, in a short note, to the possibility of compensating a short pendulum in such way as to make its period very long. He pointed out that if the bob were made in the form of a light spherical shell with its centre of curvature at the point of suspension, and this shell filled with mercury, a very approximate compensation would be obtained. The compensation might be made complete by putting a mass above the point of suspension so proportioned as to bring the centre of gravity of the system, without the mercury, to the point of suspension. Calculations were also given to show how the compensation might be effected by surrounding the bob with a ring of liquid. After this one or two methods in which the prominent feature was a spiral spring acting at the end of a variable arm, were suggested.

Mr. Gray then read a note on a "seismograph for large motions." After referring to the ordinary pendulum method he proposed to use instead of a pendulum with a free bob, a light frame suspended like a pendulum but forced to carry with it in its oscillations a thin hollow cylinder which is free to roll on a smooth level plane. This combination, Mr. Gray thought, would probably be found better than the simple cylinder, or a cylinder with a slightly weighted side. He pointed out that so far as his experiments went a good combination was a hollow cylinder with a second small cylinder resting inside of it.

At the conclusion of these three communications Mr. Milne made some remarks on his experience with instruments for registering vertical motion, which he had seen tried by Mr. Gray, and which were very similar to the one described by Professor Ewing, at the same time suggested several methods of effecting the compensation required in Mr. Gray's instrument for vertical motion, which possibly might give the result which Mr. Ewing was aiming to obtain. One of them

was to level the end of the long arm of the lever stretching the spring and allow a light spring to rest upon it in a position somewhat inclined. When the weight was relatively depressed the spring could be so arranged that it would assume a more horizontal position, and its downward push be therefore augmented. This would result in keeping the moment of the weight about the fulcrum constant. A second method would be to arrange a light chain at the end of a very light quickly acting balance. If the lower end of this rest in or near the end of the stretching lever, when this is depressed there would be a tendency for the balance of the lever to follow downwards, and thus momentarily placing more weight in the end of the stretching lever render it for a short period astatic. The best method, however, of effecting the compensation Mr. Milne thought would be to make the weight, or a portion of it, at the end of the stretching lever in the form of a roller. If this roller were attached by a thread to some fixed point above the end of the lever when this latter had a relative descent the roller would be pulled outwards and the moment about the fulcrum of the stretching lever would be thus kept constant.

With regard to this latter method of compensation Mr. Gray suggested a ball in a cup at the end of the stretching lever.

Mr. Gray said that it seemed necessary to go a little more into the details of his experiments on a vertical motion seismograph than was done in the short note communicated by him to the Society. Mr. Milne was quite right in saying that an arrangement similar in principle to Mr. Ewing's was tried. In these experiments a straight lever was adapted to the purpose by raising the weight on a vertical piece fixed to the end of the lever in such a way that the weight could be raised and lowered.

The reason why that method was rejected was simply what had been pointed out by Mr. Ewing, namely, the instability of the arrangement for large arcs. He considered the two solutions of the problem stood to each other in much the same relation as the complete solution of an equation does to an approximate arc.

At the end of Mr. Gray's paper on methods of compensating pendulums, so as to make their equilibrium neutral, Professor Ewing described one method, in addition to those given by Mr. Gray. This was to place a small upright rod below the pendulum, with its lower end pivoted in a fixed centre and its upper end touching the bob of the pendulum at its centre of gravity; at or near the top of this rod a long stretched spiral spring was to be attached so as to pull downwards, its lower end being fixed to the earth. In the normal state of the pendulum this spring would simply produce a direct compression acting along the rod, but should the pendulum be displaced from the vertical, the spring would produce a force acting sideways, and tending to keep the pendulum from swinging back to the vertical position. By a proper proportion between the parts, the equilibrium of the pendulum might, in this way, be rendered neutral over a considerable arc.

A TELEGRAM was received on the 27th from Funakawa, stating that the M. B. S. S. *Takachiho-Maru*, which left Yokohama for the north in the middle of last month, had struck a sunken rock at that port, during a heavy gale. The *Akitsuishima-Maru* was immediately despatched to her assistance.

## Ô-JISHIN NENDAIKI.

## A JAPANESE EARTHQUAKE CHRONOLOGY.

THE following paper contains the greater portion of a translation which has been made for me of the *O-Jishin Nendaiki* (an earthquake chronology). This material, which may be interesting as shewing the general nature of the matter which is contained in the earthquake calendars of Japan, I have arranged in chronological order.

This particular calendar has been chiefly useful as recording several earthquakes which I have not found mentioned in other books, and also for the account which it gives of the great earthquake of 1855.

The dates on which the shocks occurred are given both in the European and Japanese form. The conversion from one to the other being made with the assistance of Bramsen's Chronological Tables.

JOHN MILNE.

295 B.C.—In the 5th year of the reign of Kōrei-tei the 7th emperor the earth in the province of O-mi sank down and in one night was changed into a lake. During the same night Fujiyama was up-heaved. This was the first earthquake.

412-453 A.D.—In the reign of Inkiyo-tei the 20th emperor, on the 24th of the seventh month there was a strong earthquake.

600 A.D.—On the 27th of the fourth month in the 7th year of the reign of the empress Suiko-tei, the 39th sovereign, there was an earthquake.

675 Dec. 2nd.—On the 10th day of the eleventh month in the 4th year of Hakuho.

684 Nov. 16th.—On the 4th day of the tenth month in the 13th year of Hakuho.

690 December 13th.—On the 7th day of the 11th month in the 19th year of Hakuho in the same reign of Temmu-tei, the 41st emperor.

707 July 8th.—On the 5th day of the 6th month in the 4th year of Keian in the reign of Mommu-tei, the 46th emperor.

744 January 26th.—On the 7th day of the first month in the 16th year of Tempei in the reign of Shomu-tei, the 49th emperor.

856 April 16th.—On the 8th day of the 3rd month in the 3rd year of Saiko in the reign of Buntoku-tei, the 57th emperor.

879 October 16th.—On the 27th day of the 9th month in the 3rd year of Genkei in the reign of Yozei, the 59th emperor.

877 August 22nd.—On the 36th day of the 7th month in the 3rd year of Minwa in the reign of Koko-tei, the 60th emperor.

939 April 23rd.—On the 2nd day of the 4th month in the 2nd year of Nenkei in the reign of Shujaku-tei, the 61st emperor.

976 July 17th.—On the 18th day of the 6th month of the 1st year of Jōgen in the reign of Yenyu-tei, the 64th emperor. This was the greatest that ever took place, and the shaking continued for over 200 days.

1041.—In the summer (July?) of the 2nd year of Chōkiu in the reign of Go-shujaku-tei the 69th emperor.

1276 May 18th.—On the 8th day of the 4th month of the 2nd year of Angen, in the reign of Takakura-tei the 80th emperor.

1209 December 5th.—On the 7th day of the 3rd year of Jishō in the same reign, of Takakura-tei.

1185 August 6th.—On the 9th day of the 7th month of the 1st year of Bunji in the reign of Gotoba-tei, the 82nd emperor.

1257 September 2nd.—On the 23th day of the 7th month of the 1st year of Shōka Go-fukakusa-tei 88th emperor.

1293 May 3rd.—On the 23th day of the 14th month of the 1st year of Einin, Go-fushimi-tei, the 91st emperor.

1324 December 2nd.—On the 15th day of the 11th month of the 1st year of Shōchu, Go-daigo-tei the 95th emperor.

1376 May 14th.—On the 25th day of the 4th month of the 2nd year of Eiwa, Goyenyū-tei, the 100th emperor.

1402 August.—In the 8th month of the 9th year of O-yei Gokomatsu-tei, the 101st emperor.

1406 January.—In the 1st month of the 13th year of O-yei the same emperor.

1407 March.—In the 2nd month of the 14th year of Oh-ei the same emperor.

1410 February.—In the 1st month of the 17th year of O-yei the same emperor.

1432 May 15th, October 10th.—On the 16th day of the 4th month of the 4th year of Yeikio and on the 16th day of the 9th month of the same in the reign of Go-hanazono-tei, the 103rd emperor. In the reign of the same emperor, earthquakes, floods, epidemics and famines took place in the 5th year of Bunan (1448).

1467 February 3rd.—Feb. 11th.—On the 29th day of the 12th month of the 1st year of Bunsho, Go-tsuchimikado, the 104th emperor.

1494 June 10th.—June 8th.—On the 7th day of the 5th month of the 3rd year of Meioh, the same emperor.

1495 Aug. 30th.—Sept. 25th. On the 11th day of the 8th month of the 4th year of Meioh, the same emperor.

1510 September 10th.—On the 7th day of the 8th month of the 7th year of Yeisho in the reign of Go-kashiwabara-tei, the 105th emperor. This continued to shake for 75 days. At this time a stone-portal of the temple of Tennoji in Settsu was broken down.

1533 March 6th.—A star fell into the sea, on the 13th day of the 2nd year of Tembun, and an active earthquake was felt in the 13th year of the same Tembun (1544), in the reign of Gomnara-tei, the 106th emperor.

1586 January 18th.—On the 29th day of the 11th month of the 13th year of Tensho in the reign of O-gimachi-tei, the 107th emperor.

1595 August 8th.—On the 3rd day of the 7th month of the 4th year of Bunroku in the reign of Go-yōzei-tei, the 108th emperor, a rain of "hair" fell upon the ground; and on the night of 13th day of the same month, there was an active earthquake in the provinces of Yamashiro, Yamato, Kawachi, Idzumi, Settsu, O-mi and Tamba. On this occasion a temple called Daibutsuden in Kiyoto was broken down.

1595 August 18th.—There was an earthquake at Odawara in Sagami on the 7th day of the first month of the 7th year of Meishō in the reign of Go-midsuno-tei, the 110th emperor.

1648 June 13th.—On the 22nd day of the 4th month of the 1st year of Keian (1648) in the reign of Go-komiyo-tei, the 111th emperor.

1662 June 16th.—On the 1st day of the 5th month of the 2nd year of Kwambun (1662) in the reign of Go-nishi-tei, the 112th emperor.

1683 May 1st.—There was a great earthquake in Nikkō and Yedo on the 5th day of the 4th month of the 3rd year of Tenna in the reign of Reigen-tei the 113th emperor.

1683, November.—In October of the same year, part of the sea in O-sumi became land.

1703, December 31st.—On the 23rd day of the 11th month of the 16th year of Genroku in the reign of Higashiyama-tei, the 114th

emperor, the earth shook for over 200 days in Kwanto, or the eight eastern provinces viz., Musashi, Awa, Kadzusa, Shimosa, Kodzuke, Shimotsuke, Hitachi and Sagami.

1707, October 28th.—Commencing at 10 o'clock a.m., 4th day of the 10th month on in the 4th year of Hōyei a great earthquake took place in Osaka. Men and women escaped into boats, but they were all drowned by the sudden rising of the waves.

In the southern and northern division of the town, 620 dwelling-houses were destroyed by the shock. The number of the killed in the southern division was 3,620. In the northern, 2,331. The number of the killed by the waves in the southern division was 12,000 souls, and in northern, 12,030; 22 bridges were destroyed, and the waves rolled up with thousands of ships as far as Dōtombori. The number of the killed were counted in all at 29,981.

At this time blue mud gushed forth along the shores of the provinces of Kii, Ise, Mikawa and Totomi, and many lives were destroyed by the sudden rolling in of high waves. Fujiyama shook and erupted. Ashes fell in the neighbouring country. At this time Hōyeizan was created. Hōyeizan is a parasitic cone on one side of mount Fuji.

1732 November 13th.—There was an earthquake in Nagasaki on the 26th day of the 9th month of the 17th year of Kiyoho in the reign of Nakano-Mikado, the 115th emperor.

1726 April 20th.—In Yechizen province on the 19th day of the 3rd month of the 11th year of the same Kiyoho.

1751 March 24th.—There was an active earthquake which continued in Kiyoto from the 29th day of the 2nd month of the 1st year of Horeki till the 7th month in the reign of Momozono-tei, the 117th emperor.

1751 May 20th.—On the 25th day of the 4th month of the same year the earth shook over 30 times at Takata in Yechigo commencing at 6 o'clock p.m. and ending at 2 o'clock a.m. During this time a mountain slipped down and 10,000 lives were lost.

1822 July 29th.—A great earthquake took place in Kiyoto and Osaka on the 12th day of the 6th month of the 5th year of Bunsei in the reign of Ninkō-tei the 121st emperor.

1830 August 19th.—In Kiyoto on the 2nd day of the 7th month of the 13th year of the same Bunsei.

1847 May 8th.—A severe earthquake took place in the vicinity of Zenkoji in Shin-shū in the 24th day of the 3rd month of the 4th year of Kuokwa. Many persons were killed.

1854 July 8th.—On the 14th day of the 6th month of the 7th year of Kayei a very severe earthquake shook almost every country in the empire. It was especially active in Nara, Ueno in Iga, and Yokkaichi in Ise.

1854 December 23th and 24th.—One that happened on the 4th and 5th day of the 11th month of the same year, was equally severe.

It was also very severe in the provinces of Shima, Ise, Kii &c, and the dead were innumerable. Those who died by the high waves in Osaka, were numbered at over 6,000.

The following are the names of those places where the shaking was most severe.

TOWN.	PROVINCE.
Yedo ... ..	Musashi.
Osaka ... ..	Settsu.
Wakayama ... ..	Kii.
Kiyoto ... ..	Yamashiro.
Nagoya ... ..	Owari.
Tokushima ... ..	Awa, in the I. of Shikoku.



Town.	Province.
Tsushima ... ..	Owari.
Kambara... ..	Suruga.
Goyu ... ..	Mikawa.
Tsu ... ..	Ise.
Kanaya ... ..	Tōtomi.
Hiroshima ... ..	Aki.
Funai ... ..	Bungo.
Hakone ... ..	Sagami.
Kakegawa ... ..	Tōtomi.
Fukuroi ... ..	
Yamada ... ..	Ise.
Miya ... ..	Owari.
Numadsu ... ..	Suruga.
O-dzu ... ..	Iyo.
Matsuyama ... ..	Ise.
Takamatsu ... ..	Sanuki.

Places where the shaking was felt but not so severely.

TOWN.	PROVINCE.
Hara ... ..	Suruga.
Yoshiwara ... ..	
Kuwana ... ..	Ise.
Arai ... ..	Tōtomi.
Hirose ... ..	Idsumi.
Maizaka ... ..	Tōtomi.
Matsumoto ... ..	Shinano.
Kishi-no-wada ... ..	Idsumi.
Tsuruzaki ... ..	Bungo.
Hachiman ... ..	O-mi.
Hamamatsu ... ..	Tōtomi.
Yoshida ... ..	Mikawa.
Hakata ... ..	Chikuzen.
Kumamoto ... ..	Higo.
Fuchiu ... ..	Suruga.
Okayama ... ..	Bizen.
Kojima ... ..	Awa, in the I.
Hagi ... ..	Nagato.
Sumoto ... ..	Awaji.
Amagasaki ... ..	Settsu.
Yejiri ... ..	Suruga.
Kameyama ... ..	Tango.
Hiogo ... ..	Settsu.
Ako ... ..	Harima.
Mitajiri ... ..	Sawo.

Places where the shaking was comparatively light.

TOWN.	PROVINCE.
Sakai ... ..	Idsumi
Okitsu ... ..	Suruga
Usui ... ..	Bungo
Sano ... ..	Idsumi
Tenryama ... ..	Mimasaka
Obama ... ..	Wakasa
Murotsu ... ..	Harima
Yokkaichi ... ..	Ise
Koriyama ... ..	Yamato
Okabe ... ..	Suruga
Uyeno ... ..	Iga
Hirado ... ..	Hizen
Yui ... ..	Suruga
Kobe ... ..	Ise
Sadowara ... ..	Hinga
Zeze ... ..	Ohmi
Tottori ... ..	Inaba
Hino ... ..	Ohmi
Nishinomiya ... ..	Settsu
Kiyosu ... ..	Owari
Nagahama ... ..	Ohmi
Saijo ... ..	Iyo
Nara ... ..	Yamato
Nakatsu ... ..	Buzen

In Osaka, a great many ships were destroyed and persons killed by the high waves which rose after the earthquake. In the river Ajikawa, 174 junks and 180 boats of various description and about 150 persons were destroyed. In the river Kidzūkawa, 590 junks were destroyed. Up to the 11th day of the 11th month (1854 Dec. 30th) over

600 bodies were drawn out of the river. Counting the dead of various provinces there were over 6,000.

In every part of the city, buildings of various descriptions, such as Buddhist and Shinto temples, towers, bridges, theatres, &c., were destroyed and burned. Consequently in many quarters of the city a vast number of human beings died.

The seashores and river sides were damaged, and ships of every kind were destroyed, whilst the men who were in them almost without exception lost their lives.

In the neighbouring countries or villages the damage was equally great.

The commencement of the shaking was at half past the 5th hour, that is at 9 o'clock in the morning of the 12th. From this hour the shaking continued almost unceasingly until 4 o'clock in the afternoon of the 13th day, when the greatest shock occurred.

After this no more severe shocks were felt. Several buildings were destroyed and men were killed.

At Nagoya, in the province of Owari, the shaking was severe on the 4th and 5th day of the 11th month (1854 Dec. 23rd and 24th).

Great numbers of houses were destroyed many being attacked by waves. High waves of about 20 feet in height rolled over the rice fields of Chitagori and in three places large dikes were injured. Houses at Susaki, O-i, and Kamezaki &c. were destroyed.

In Yawata, in the province of O-mi, buildings of various descriptions, such as dwelling houses, Buddhist and Shinto temples &c., were levelled to the ground.

The damages in Hikone, and Nagahama was about equal. The damages in Samegai were also great. Mt. Yorozan slipped down, and the clear water of the neighbouring streams became muddy. Seven or eight tenths of Kano and O-gaki were also injured. More than one half of the houses in Sunomata, suffered, and mud gushed forth from fissures in the earth. Two tenths of Hagiwara and eight tenths of Inaba were also destroyed. In Matsumoto in Shinano, it was most severe here, and more than seven or eight tenths of the dwellings were destroyed. It was also very active in the neighbourhood of Zenkoji. On the whole the province of Shinano suffered more than the others.

Yamada in Ise.—Here the earthquake was very active but it is said through the help of divine power that no buildings, even down to the subsidiary chapels of the two great temples, were destroyed.

In a village called Yamanaka between Hakone and Mishima some roads were fissured.

In a village called Kobayashi Mura a short distance from Mishima, the earth opened to the width of 5 jo (50 feet) and a house and nine men fell into the fissure. A neighbouring village called Ishida-mura was also much damaged.

Shimoda in Idzu was attacked very severely, high waves sweeping away more than half of the inhabitants.

Many of the people of Numadzu and the neighbouring villages escaped into boats, so that they might not be injured, but by doing so, alas they were all killed.

The village of Kashiwara lying between Hara and Yoshiwara was half destroyed.

A great bridge over the river Sudzuka-gawa in Yoshiwara fell down and another bridge on the Tani-gawa was destroyed three times.

The village of Motoichiba was much damaged. The village Matsukawa-mura in the east of the river Fuji-kawa, was partly destroyed

and many persons were hurt. The shaking was equally active in Iwabuchi.

In a village between Niisaka and Nakago, the earth was split to a width of 4 or 5 feet and the level of the earth was made uneven.

Yokosuka between Okitsu and Yejiri was half destroyed.

Shimidan, a harbour between Yejiri and Fuchui was very much damaged. The houses were all reduced to ashes and taken by the waves far out to sea.

At Abekawa between Fuchui and Mariko a large quantity of mud gushed out.

At a place between Fujiyeda and Shimada, no bridge remained undestroyed.

Muddy water streamed through the streets of Hachikenya and Kawaramachi on the Oigawa.

The earth was opened in Sayono-nakayama, which lies between Kanaya and Niisaka.

In Yamagahana between Niisaka and Kakegawa there was much destruction. A bridge called Hagurobashi, was shaken down. Fissures were made on the roads in Sangano between Fukuroi and Mitsuke. In Nakaidsumi, Nagamori, Ikeda &c., between Mitsuke and Hamamatsu, there was great destruction. Along the bank of the river Tenruga all was destroyed.

In Yedo the shaking commenced at 9 o'clock a.m., on the 4th day of the 11th month of the 7th year of Kayei (Dec. 23 1854), and many houses belonging to people of both high and low ranks, were damaged. At this time however the violence had not, as in other counties, reached its maximum. On the next day about 6 o'clock p.m. the earth shook more strongly than it had upon the previous day, and high waves rolled up as far as Shiba, Takanawa and Shinagawa, but they were not so strong as at Osaka. At about 10 o'clock at night flames of conflagrations appeared in several directions. These were put out about 4 o'clock a.m. Asakusa and its vicinity were all reduced to ashes.

The above is a general account of the scene which took place in Yedo.

In the province of Tosa, the effect was also great. Many buildings fell down and both old and young lost their lives not only in the city but in the country too. Portions of mountains slipped away and many fissures were made.

In Idsumo the earthquake was equally severe, and at several places muddy water gushed out from the earth and flowed like rivers.

The following are the names of those places where high waves rose up.

1st.—Places where the waves were very high.

TOWN.	PROVINCE.
Wakayama ... ..	Kii
Kishiwada ... ..	Idsumi
Onomichi ... ..	Bingo
Toba ... ..	Shima
Kannoura ... ..	Tosa
Osaka ... ..	Settsu
Shimoda ... ..	Idzu
Miya ... ..	Owari
Fukura ... ..	Awaji
Matsuzaka ... ..	Ise
Maizaka ... ..	Tōtomi
Goyu ... ..	Mikawa
Kochi ... ..	Tosa
Arai ... ..	Tōtomi
Tanabe ... ..	Kii
Kambara ... ..	Suruga
Kumano ... ..	Kii
Numadzu ... ..	Suruga
Tsu ... ..	Ise
Hidaka ... ..	Kii
Okazaki ... ..	Mikawa
Shinagawa ... ..	Musashi

## 2nd.—Places where the waves were high.

TOWN.	PROVINCE.
Kiyomigaseki ... ..	Suruga
Shodzu Shima... ..	Sanuki
Saya ... ..	Owari
Hamamatsu ... ..	Totomi
Okitsu ... ..	Suruga
Kuwana ... ..	Ise
Fujikawa ... ..	Mikawa
Kada... ..	Kii
Nishinomiya ... ..	Settsu
Sakai ... ..	Idzumi
Yuasa ... ..	Kii
Rokken ... ..	Ise
Yokkaichi... ..	Ise
Shingu ... ..	Kii
Taushima ... ..	Owari
Mitsuke ... ..	Totomi
Takamatsu ... ..	Sanuki
Chiriu ... ..	Mikawa
Kuroye ... ..	Kii
Akasaka ... ..	Mikawa

## 3rd.—Places where the waves were of moderate height.

TOWN.	PROVINCE.
Yui ... ..	Suruga
Miye ... ..	Ise
Kobe ... ..	Settsu
Sano ... ..	Idzumi
Futagawa ... ..	Mikawa
Shirasuka ... ..	Totomi
Ominato ... ..	Ise
Kanagawa... ..	Musashi
Kowa... ..	Ise
Jinja ... ..	"
Amagasaki ... ..	Settsu
Hiogo ... ..	"
Nada ... ..	"
Imatsu ... ..	"
Dempo ... ..	"
Isozaki ... ..	"
Naruo ... ..	"
O-ishi ... ..	"
Okabe ... ..	Suruga
Kawasaki ... ..	Musashi
Kawasaki ... ..	Ise

*Kiyoto.*—Though the shock was very severe, the capital did not suffer so much as other towns.

*Otsu.*—Severe shock. Houses leaned over. The water in lake Biwa was raised to form violent waves.

*Kusatsu.*—Severe shock. Two or three dwelling-houses were destroyed and others were damaged.

*Ishibe.*—5 or 6 houses destroyed and the others were damaged.

*Minakuchi.*—The damage was same as above. A Buddhist temple was destroyed. Three men killed, 18 men were wounded.

*Tsuchiyama.*—The damage to houses was the same as above. On the night of the 11th December, Mount Sudzuka was noisy without any visible cause.

*Sakanoshita.*—Same as above both in respect to the damages and the noise from the mountain.

*Seki.*—The damage same as above, 3 houses were destroyed. Four persons were wounded.

*Kameyama.*—The castle was damaged a little. 20 house were destroyed. Fire broke out, but was soon extinguished.

*Shono.*—Severe shock. A number of houses were destroyed, and 3 men were killed. Many were wounded.

*Yokkaichi.*—Both on the 4th and the 5th there was a heavy shock. About 60 houses were destroyed. Thirty store houses were damaged. About 200 men were killed, and the wounded were numerous.

*Kuwana.*—After the shock large waves broke in upon the shore and caused much destruction. The killed and the wounded were numerous.

*Miya.*—The effects were the same as above.

*Narumi.*—A heavy shock, and large waves. Both the killed and the wounded were very numerous. More than half the houses were destroyed.

*Ohiriu.*—Many houses leaned over. High waves. Half the houses were injured.

*Okasaki.*—Many people lost their lives by the coming in of the waves.

*Fujikawa.*—Half the dwelling houses were swept away by the waves. Many lives were lost.

*Akasaka.*—After the shock three-quarters of the houses were swept away by the coming in of waves and the dead and wounded were very many.

*Goyu.*—Very many houses were destroyed by the shock and after that all were carried far away by the waves. The dead and the wounded were numerous.

*Futagawa.*—After the shock the town was attacked by the waves. Many were killed.

*Shirasuka.*—Same as above. A sixth part of the houses were ruined.

*Arai.*—The town was half destroyed. Ships both large and small were swept away. An embankment was destroyed.

*Matsuka.*—After the shock a post station was carried away by the waves.

*Hamamatsu.*—Most of the houses were destroyed, and many were killed.

*Mitsuke.*—Great number of houses were destroyed by the shock, and the waves; but those who were killed were comparatively few.

*Fukuroi.*—After the shock all the houses were burned.

*Kakegawa.*—Same as above.

*Nisaka.*—The shock was great, but the damages were small.

*Kanaya.*—An eighth part of the houses were burned after the shock.

*Shimada.*—An eighth part of the houses were destroyed partly by the shock and partly by the waves.

*Fujikawa.*—A portion of a mountain slipped into the river, and stopped the stream. Below this one could pass the river bed on foot.

*Fujiyeda.*—After the shock half the dwellinghouses were burned. The dead and the wounded were numerous.

*Okabe.*—Half the dwelling houses were destroyed by the waves after the shock.

*Mariko.*—Whole buildings were burned after the shock.

*Fuchui.*—Houses were destroyed by the shock. Fire broke out in a street called Yegawamachi, and one third of the dwelling-houses were burned.

*Yajiri.*—This town was burnt entirely. The dead and the wounded were very many.

*Okitsu.*—Attacked and destroyed by the waves after the shock. The dead and wounded were numerous.

*Yui.*—Damages were very great, but the wounded were only a few.

*Kambara.*—After the shock half the buildings were destroyed by fire. The remaining half were carried away by the waves far out to sea.

*Yoshiwara.*—After the shock the town was completely burnt out.

*Hara, Numadzu and Mishima.*—The damage was small, although the shock was great.

*Hakone.*—A strong shock and several parts of the village were destroyed. Portions from the sides of the mountains slipped away.

*Odawara.*—The shock was severe. Several houses were destroyed and damages were numerous.

*O-iso, Hiratsuka, Fujisawa, Totsuka, Hodo-gaya, Kanagawa, Kawasaki, Shinagawa.*—Although the shock at each place was a little different, on the whole it was about the same as at Odawara.

The seashore of Kannoura in the eastern extremity of the province of Tosa in the island of Shikoku, was swamped by great waves for a distance of 13 ri.

From Taino-hama to Tokushima in the province of Awa, (the neighbouring province of Tosa) for a length of about 2 miles the earth for the width of 2 feet was split and broken up. In both places many houses were destroyed and burned. Men and cattle were killed.

Half the dwelling-houses were destroyed in Takamatsu in the province of Sanuki. The shock in Marugame was much lighter than in Sanuki, yet the damages were by no means small.

At Kokura in the province of Bizen, the shaking commenced at 4 o'clock on the 5th November. During the night there were six heavy shocks. Next morning there was also some severe shaking. Great portion of the city was destroyed.

The shocks were equally active in Hizen, Higo, and Chikuzen.

In Tsuruzaki in the province of Bungo half the buildings were destroyed, and the dead and the wounded were very many.

In Funai, 400 houses were destroyed and a great number of the people were killed and wounded.

The shock was also severe in Chugoku viz.:—*Harima, Mimasaka, Bizen, Bitchu, Bingo, Aki, Suway, Nagato.*

1854 December 23rd.—At Hiroshima in the province of Aki, a smart shock took place 8 o'clock a.m. on the 4th day of the 11th month. It also shook very strongly at 4 o'clock p.m. on the 5th day. The shaking continued all the day on the 6th, and on the 7th it was still greater. From the 4th up to the morning of 6th it shook 26 times. Buildings of every description were destroyed. Those who were killed or wounded were however few.

Shock also in O-shia province in the north of Japan, but it was not so heavy as in the western part.

The greatest shaking was in Wakayama in the province of Kii. After the shock the waves for a length of about 30 cho (1 cho = 121 yards) rolled up the rivers and a great number of ships number destroyed.

A portion of the city of Tanabe was attacked by waves, and a 6th part was destroyed by fire.

At Yuasa more than 600 houses were swept away by the waves.

At the village of Hiroura which lies upon the seashore, out of about 1,000 houses only three remained, the others being carried by the waves far out to sea.

Half of the houses at the villages *Higata Nakada, Hataka, Kuroye, Shimatsu and Yemidau*, were carried away by the waves.

The following are the dates of earthquakes and waves that occurred during the 7th year of Kayei (1854):—

June.—Earthquake ... ..	in Nara	} Yamato.
" Do. ... ..	" Koriyama	
" Do. ... ..	" Yokkaichi.	
" Do. ... ..	" Uyeno, Iga.	
Dec.—Do. and sea waves ... ..	Osaka.	
" Waves ... ..	Toba, Shima.	
" Earthquake & waves ... ..	Tokaido.	
" High waves ... ..	Tanabe, Kii.	
" Earthquake ... ..	Hirano.	



Dec.—Earthquake ... ..	in Matsubara, Kawachi.
„ High waves ... ..	„ Sakai, Idsumi.
„ Severe earthquake ... ..	„ „ „ „
„ High waves ... ..	„ Onomichi.
„ Earthquake ... ..	„ Nishinomiya, Settsu.
„ Earthquake and mud	gushed out of the
ground ... ..	„ Harima.
„ Earthquake ... ..	„ Kiogo.
„ do. ... ..	„ Koyasan.
„ Sea waves... ..	„ Wakayama.
„ Earthquake ... ..	„ Bingo.
„ do. ... ..	„ Tamba.
„ Sea waves... ..	„ Kannoura.
„ Earthquake ... ..	„ Tsurusaki, Bungo.
„ Sea waves... ..	„ Yuasa.
„ Earthquake ... ..	„ Hikone, Ohmi.
„ do. ... ..	„ Naruto, Awa.
„ do. ... ..	„ O-shiu.
„ do. ... ..	„ Takamatsu, Sanuki.
„ Sea waves... ..	„ Fukura, Awaji.
„ Earthquake ... ..	„ Hiroshima.

In Sanda in the province of Settsu about 70 dwelling houses were destroyed, and in the neighbouring villages about 80 houses were destroyed. The wounded were innumerable.

In the province of Kawachi about 160 buildings were destroyed.

At Sakai about 60 dwelling houses were destroyed. Temples of both religion were also destroyed.

At Sano in the province of Idzumi, 200 dwelling-houses destroyed.

It was much lighter in Kiyoto than in Osaka.

Kii and Ise were more severely visited than Osaka, and great numbers of houses were reduced to ruin.

At Kameyama in the province of Tamba, almost 100 dwelling houses were destroyed.

At Sonobe in the same province, more than 200 dwelling houses were destroyed, and over 200 men were killed.

At Koriyama over 20 houses were destroyed. The killed were 12 and the wounded were innumerable.

At Nara half the buildings were destroyed. The wounded were few.

Shook actively in Kojima in the province of Awa, and the 7th part of the city was destroyed, or else burned by fire.

High waves rolled up in Tanabe and Kumano in the province of Kii and all the ships which were near the shore and on the river banks were thrown up and utterly wrecked. Waves equal in force to these attacked several other places. In some villages not only the houses but also the animals were entirely swept away.

In Sakai in the province of Idzumi the destruction was equally great. It was also the same in Sano.

THE low barometer of the last four days, the mean of several readings being only 29.60 or about 0.28 below the mean reading of the month of July, seems to indicate considerable atmospheric disturbance in the vicinity; an impression confirmed by appearances and the very cold, unsettled weather. The temperature of the air to 3 P.M. did not exceed 65° Fah., or 14° below the mean of the month, and about 20° to 23° below the ordinary maxima of the first week in July. The barometer is slowly rising, but we shall probably hear of bad weather at not more than two hundred miles distance; while a probability exists that we shall not wholly escape.

IMMIGRATION into Hokkaido is small, if the figures given by the *Hochi Shinbun* are correct. The number of people who have emigrated from other parts of Japan to Yezo during the five months of this year, is 603; namely, 351 males and 252 females. The proportion of adults to children is not given.

## Correspondence.

### SCARLET FEVER IN JAPAN.

To the editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

DEAR SIR:—I am glad to find that Dr. Baelz has at last summoned up courage enough to meet my criticisms of the government boards of health which were dated 20th April and 23rd May. Permit me to reproduce Dr. Baelz's reply as I shall refer to it in detail.

To the Editor of the *Japan Weekly Mail*.

DEAR SIR,—There has been a good deal of controversy both in the press and by the public about the question whether there is any scarlet fever in Japan or not. Dr. Faulds has alarmed the community by his temporary outcries about the dangerous epidemics raging now, as well as about the carelessness of the Government and of the professors of medicine. Although directly attacked under the last designation (being the only foreign professor giving instruction in the treatment etc. of epidemic diseases at the University) it never occurred to me to answer Dr. Faulds, as his assertions were quite unsupported not only by facts but also by his own evidence.

In the last number of the *Mail*, Gilead P. Beck takes quite the opposite view, and states most absolutely that "a case of scarlet fever has never been seen in Japan." In this he is equally wrong.

Having been the first to notice the occurrence of scarlet fever in this country (*vide Eldridge, diseases affecting foreigners in Japan, 1877*), and having had an opportunity of seeing an unusually large number of patients amongst the Japanese, I feel bound to state my experience briefly:—

1.—There is scarlet fever in Japan, but it is rare and has never been observed in an epidemic form. I have seen 14 cases in 5 years, all of them occurring in Japanese from 15 to 30 years of age. Two of these cases happened last winter; and during the same time or afterwards isolated cases were noted by other physicians of Tokio. That the cases mentioned were true scarlet fever, is absolutely sure, as not one of the characteristic symptoms of the disease was wanting. The mere description of one of the cases would convince the most sceptical practitioner.

2.—There is no epidemic of scarlet fever in Tokio at the present time. We have had since last winter two unusual epidemic diseases accompanied by a rash. The first is typhus fever, which began in the prisons and has spread with inveterate intensity all over the town; the second, a form of disease rare in most other countries, viz., Rubella, or German measles, called by the Germans "Rötheln," an expression now commonly used in England also, where the disease appeared one or two years ago and gave rise to much discussion among the profession. In a few cases "Rötheln" resembles scarlet fever, in other cases, measles, but most frequently the disease stands out quite distinctly from both of these, and it is difficult to understand how a medical man who had enjoyed even limited opportunities of examining the present epidemic, could mistake it altogether for scarlet fever. The latter is a rather insidious and dangerous ailment, accompanied by fever, even in its slightest forms, whilst "Rötheln" is a harmless kind of rash, where fever symptoms may be absent even in cases when the whole body is covered with a dark red-spotted exanthema. In other cases there is some fever, but even then the patients are seldom or ever confined to bed. The soldiers, amongst whom "Rötheln" have been especially frequent during the last six months, are not even admitted to the hospital when suffering from the disease. I shall perhaps best convey an idea of this malady's mildness when I say that I have seen many people attending to their duties during the whole time the rash was out, and often it has been discovered by others, the patients themselves having no sensations of illness whatsoever. Other minor symptoms, which are different in both diseases, need not be noted here.

If therefore as stated above, there be some cases which at the first glance might be taken for scarlet fever, they form the great exception, and I repeat that the present epidemic is not scarlet fever, and that parents may be reassured as to the nature of the disease in question, which, by the way, has long been known to all Japanese under the name of *Kazahana*.

I quite agree with Gilead P. Beck that, before making public statements about dangerous epide-

mic disease and—I may add—before accusing the Government and the teachers of medicine of disgraceful negligence—Dr. Faulds would do well to inquire a little more fully into the matter of his complaints. I have ignored his accusations until now, and if, as a true member of the *ecclesia militans*, he may now hope that he has at last found an opportunity for a fierce discussion with me he is mistaken. I have published my opinion because some unnecessary alarm has been caused, and some erroneous conceptions have been entertained about questions which it was easy to settle.

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours most faithfully,

E. BAELZ.

Tokio, June 8th, 1881.

Dr. Baelz rather inconsistently claims to be the first to have cried out that there was scarlet fever in Japan while accusing me of alarming the community; and while possessing sufficient knowledge to have dispelled all doubt, he remains silent during the lengthened period indicated by the dates mentioned above. The charge of causing needless alarm rests on two statements which I have made:—

1.—That there are cases of scarlet fever in Japan.

2.—That the prevalent epidemic is most probably a mild form of that disease.

As Dr. Baelz now hotly supports the first position I am called on only to defend the latter, but I may simply state that about a year before Dr. Baelz arrived in Japan I had seen and spoken freely in medical circles of two cases of typical scarlet fever, both foreigners, and both very recent arrivals in Japan.

During last season alone I have seen nearly twenty cases, one fatal, and others of a very severe type; so that judging from my own experience the disease is gaining ground. Besides these cases, I have, of course, seen numbers of those milder cases now under dispute.

Before entering on the discussion of the second point, I must advert to Dr. Baelz's statement that I have attacked himself by the designation "professor of medicine." He tells us that he is the only "professor of medicine giving instruction in the treatment, etc., of epidemic diseases at the University." I was not aware that epidemic diseases prevailed specially at the University, and made no reference to that excellent institution, nor to its able and learned professors of medicine, of which I find in the generally accurate directory of the *Gazette* the names of no less than nine gentlemen; nor did I specify "foreigners," nor "Tokio," nor "instruction in the treatment etc., of epidemic diseases." My "fierce" attack on the government and on Dr. Baelz himself is entirely contained in those pithy lines. "The present state of things is a disgrace to government boards of hygiene and teachers of medicine." I did not think the central government to be directly responsible, as they have delegated the management of such affairs to the boards I have named, but had I made such a charge as Dr. Baelz attributes to me what better support could I ask for than the doctor's own words contain?—"Typhus fever which began in the prisons, and has spread with inveterate intensity all over the town," and empire too, I may safely add. "Began in the prisons!" Just so. And is not that disgraceful?

To come then to the point. I called attention to the prevalence of a mild form of scarlatina (or scarlet fever, which some people assure me is quite a different disease) and am now met by Dr. Baelz's statement, *ex-cathedra*, as the only one qualified to speak about epidemics in Japan, that the disease is *rötheln*, *rubeole*, German, measles or *kaza-hana*. He says *rötheln* is commonly used in England. Some of the

very best and most recent writers make no mention of it. Some mention it to describe it in terms of measles or scarlet fever. It is not alluded to at all in Reynolds' large "System of Medicine" just being published and of which a portly volume is devoted to such diseases as it belongs to. Some, like Tanner, look upon cases of the kind usually described as being the joint product of two poisons. Roberts, in his very recent "Hand-book of Medicine," devotes a few lines to it as a 'described' hybrid of scarlet fever and measles, which seems rather a biological puzzle. In the volume of the *Lancet* for 1877 I find three short communications on the subject, but I cannot find a single case in which the temperature has been recorded, and vague statements without such records are worthless, or nearly so.

I did not deny that such a disease may exist. My language was this:—"It is rarely acknowledged by experienced English physicians as anything but a variety of one or the other disease (i.e., scarlet fever or measles). I add farther on,—I frankly admit that many of the cases seem to justify the term *rötheln* if the term is to be used at all." I was then of opinion that Dr. Baelz was opposed to the term *rötheln*, which was used by Dr. Shingu, my esteemed friend and former pupil, who is an ardent student of western medical literature and a member of the board of health. My criticism was directed against a letter by a "German doctor," who wrote on 10th May in the *Chiu-gai-ji*, a medical journal connected with the medical school of the university. Probably he had seen my letter in the *Gazette* a week or so before writing in Japanese, and he describes the epidemic under the title of *fu-shin-setsu* or *rubeolæ Japonica*—the latter term being printed quite plainly in Roman letters.

Dr. Baelz has assured us that he is the only professor teaching about epidemics, and as the writer of the Japanese article is called a "German doctor" and there are no German doctors here not connected with the university, I shall refer to the writer as Dr. B., which will stand as a contraction for blank. Nothing is said in Dr. B.'s letter of Dr. Baelz's *kasa-hana*, *rötheln* or *rubeolæ Germanica* and nothing is said in Dr. Baelz's letter of Dr. B.'s *rubeolæ Japonica* or *fu-shin-setsu*, so that, as your readers will at once perceive, the individuality of the two writers is quite distinct. Dr. Baelz asserts in German fashion that the disease is *rubeolæ*, reminding us of the American humourist's escape from the measles which invaded a family so large that ere it reached him there was not a single measles left. The term *rubeolæ* is used by English writers in a generic sense, or if in a specific sense, as confined to common measles. Dr. Baelz uses it here as co-extensive with *rötheln*. It is necessary to point out this fact because cases of ordinary measles (*hashika* of the Japanese) have been seen during the recent season, while cases of scarlet fever of the gravest kind have existed side by side and have, I believe, been genetically related in the directest manner with cases which Dr. B. a few months ago invented the new name *rubeolæ Japonica* for, and which Dr. Baelz now calls *rötheln*. So far from the facts of the present epidemic supporting the theory of a disease *rötheln* having a specific poison and definite laws of its own, as observed by me, they go against such a theory. Dr. Baelz's use of the term *kasa-hana* as descriptive of a disease long known to all Japanese, seems to open up some clue

to the confusion. The affection which is more strictly called *hoppa*, (*kasa-hana* being a loose popular term) is not that to which I have called attention at all. My native medical friends seem also to agree that *hoppa* is not a disease of an epidemic nature and is not specially prominent at the present time. I have not found any rise of temperature even by close thermometrical observation in that trivial affection, and am surprised that Dr. Baelz should seem to mistake it for mild cases of scarlet fever. What has arrested the attention of the native medical profession is the existence, widely spread, of a new febrile exanthema, accompanied with fever rising to 105° Fah., sore throat, swelled glands and desquamation and if this disease is *rötheln* or scarlet fever they say it is certainly not what they have understood by *kazahana* or rather *hoppa*.

In short, the "only" teacher in Japan would be safer to adopt the *rubeolæ japonica* of his Hegelian *ander* Dr. B. with which his name is likely in any case to be indissolubly associated so long as he remains in Japan.

Dr. Baelz speaks of scarlet fever as "a rather insidious and dangerous ailment, accompanied by fever in its slightest forms," while in *rötheln* "fever symptoms may be absent." Now, it is generally admitted that in slight cases of scarlet fever no rise of temperature may be detected, except by such careful observation as can seldom be given during an epidemic; and as Dr. Baelz's language implies clearly that there is fever in some other cases of his *rötheln*, a very clear distinction has not been laid down. One distinction, however, is likely to be upheld, namely, that when there is high fever running to 105° Fah., with severe sore throat and inflammation of the gullet with great lassitude lasting for weeks, it is not the *rötheln* described in books, but is ordinary *rötheln* described in books, but is something so very like scarlet fever, especially when the eruption is well defined, that "it is difficult to understand" how it could be mistaken for anything else.

Dr. Baelz in his letter conveys the idea that the mildness of a malady which allows patients to attend to ordinary duties, and which does not even attract the attention of the subject of it, is a clear proof that the disease is not scarlet fever.

No doctrine could be more dangerous or misleading, and some forty authors whom I have consulted agree in the very opposite view.

Dr. Baelz, in this his main assertion, is hopelessly at variance with all modern hygienists, who look upon the disease in its every mildest and most common form as exceedingly dangerous to the community; and so far from danger arising lest the community should be unduly alarmed it is a patent fact that through a mistaken philanthropy scarlet fever has been allowed to enter and spread through new communities, as in Australia, where its ravages are only beginning to excite sufficient alarm now that the disease has become finally rooted in the country. It is impossible within these limits to quote largely from medical works on such a technical subject. I wrote on the 20th April. On the 23rd day of the same month the *London Lancet*, which perhaps occupies the leading place as—not an English only but—a cosmopolitan medical journal, sums up the latest views as manifested in a general discussion on the subject. I have only seen the article since reading Dr. Baelz's letter and indeed could not possibly have seen it much earlier. Says the *Lancet*:—"There is hardly any disease in regard to which

"diagnosis is at once so difficult and important as scarlet fever. All authors agree in saying that almost every prominent symptom of it may be wanting. All the symptoms of the earlier stages may either be absent or may be overlooked—sickness, sore-throat, and rash. And even the temperature, judged by one or two observations, may be below 100°. All authorities describe, and all practitioners are familiar with, cases in which no suspicion of the disease exists until the occurrence of desquamation."

The conclusion is, that such cases should be secluded for eight weeks from society.

"This is very hard," continues the *Lancet*, "especially in cases where the disease is slight, where there is no sense of illness and but slight or no appearance of desquamation, but it is sound doctrine. The precautions may be excessive, but the case is one for great caution." And again, "parents and patients will often rebel against this hard doctrine, but considering the gravity of the disease, it is a safe one for medical men to hold."

For the benefit of medical men I may state that Dr. B. describes *rubeolæ Japonica*, as having amongst other symptoms, shivering, fever rising to 37–39.8 C. (nearly 103 Fah.) great lassitude, dry throat rendering the patient unable to swallow water, headache, injected conjunctivæ as in measles (this is quite common in scarlet fever also) and sore throat which he describes as like that of scarlet fever. He admits that it is difficult to distinguish from scarlet fever, and states that the disease spreads with great power and is contagious.

Dr. Shingu of the Board of Health writing in the *I-ji-Shinbun* or *Medical News* of 15th May agrees in his description with the above. He adds constipation as a symptom (which is common in scarlet fever). He further mentions that the skin afterwards peels off—a symptom to which the latest utterance of the *Lancet* gives great importance. The symptom was remarkably prominent in some cases observed by me. The fever says Dr. Shingu, rises to 105° Fah. which fact I can also fully corroborate by careful thermometric observation.

I am sorry Dr. Baelz should have condescended to use mongrel Latin to express his annoyance at being criticised; and, as I have shown, I had not criticised him personally at all; but when I recall that dear old, witty, and most wicked Renan's description of Teutonic manners as displayed by the invasion of his chateau during the war, I can laugh heartily and forgive, especially as I understand the worthy, and on the whole really able, doctor gives me possession of the field; over which hobbles gory, and not a little chop-fallen, the gallant form of Gilead P. Beck, deprived by medical science of both elegant limbs and without a solitary leg to stand on. For him I have no other desire than the purely professional and philanthropic one, of applying a healthy and inspiring caustic now and again to the tender stamps.

I am happy to be able to say, that my letters, besides alarming Gilead P. Beck, aroused the authorities to vigorous measures in regard to a large district with special sanitary wants, which I have more than once pointed out. The cost will be great, but it is pleasant to bear tribute to the honest desire to do right which public bodies often show when properly stimulated.

I am, Your truly,

H. FAULDS.

Tokio, 15th June.



INU-O-MONO.

To the editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

SIR:—As you have not taken further notice of the dog stealing paragraphs in the *Japan Mail*, we, that is, several owners of good dogs with myself, would like to say a few words lest the subject should drop and the *Mail* be permitted to wriggle out of the hole into which it has got. To kill two birds with one stone is profitable sport. When the *Mail* first bubbled over with gush about the noble sport of the "Satsuma knights," sport which consisted in raising a hullabaloo and peppering a pack of stolen dogs with arrows, it little thought of the, for it, lamentable results. These results are,—1. The *Mail* now says the "Satsuma knights" have adopted precautionary measures against the receipt of stolen dogs: this is so far satisfactory; but if they should not do so, their attention has been drawn to the fact that foreigners, at least, are likely to resent the borrowing, as the *Mail* puts it, of their favourite animals. 2. That evidence has been placed before us to show that the *Mail* knowing the true story of the theft of a particular dog preferred to suppress the real version and lend its columns to the propagation of a false edition thereof. This story, of course, the *Mail* could publish, stating at the time that it had not "a grain of truth in it." With this flourishing paragraph to commence with the *Mail* was, little by little, forced to acknowledge the true position. First we had the story as a light and airy joke. Next there appeared in your paper what we who are acquainted with the particulars believe to be the true story. After this, we were treated to a few quibbles (or corrections) of the *Mail* resting unessential details of your story; as, for instance, that the dogs' tails were not docked but merely clipped, and that the gentleman referred to was not secretary of the Italian legation but of the Italian consulate. Finally, there appeared another paragraph and a letter to show that these quibbles were not without some foundation at all events; and an apologetic paragraph of "unequivocal disapproval of the action of the "Satsuma knights" in purchasing stolen property.

In this affair the *Mail* has assumed the position of defender of a low practice on a series of quibbles and sophistries; telling the public, and those who were smarting under the loss of favourite animals, that the missing dogs were only borrowed, and were well treated while in the hands of the borrowers. We know of five expensive foreign dogs belonging to residents of this city which have been stolen; one of which had certainly been brutally treated. The *Mail* would never have descended to the defence of this system of dog stealing if it had been other than a Japanese action; and we venture to remind that journal of the fate of a newspaper in Tokio, which, by its exuberant anxiety to defend everything simply because it was Japanese, became the laughing stock of its employers and of the public, and then, like a farthing candle, died out in the fumes and sputter of its own creating.

This may appear a long letter about a trifle, but we cannot stand this dog stealing business.

Yours faithfully,

and for self and friends,

PETER.

Tokio, June 24th, 1881.

## Occasional Notes.

In the article on currency we maintain the position that any addition to the currency beyond the actual requirements of the moment leads to an advance in prices of all other commodities; or, more correctly speaking, to depreciation of the circulating medium. On reference to the financial circular of Messrs. Henry Clews & Co., of New York, dated January 4th, 1881, the extraordinary advance in prices throughout the country is referred to and accounted for by the "pooling" arrangements of the railway companies enabling them to fix extravagant rates of freight; and,—

"Another cause helping this advance in prices has been the large increase in the circulating medium. In the year 1879 we imported \$67,000,000 of specie in excess of our exports; besides which, nearly an equal amount was produced from our mines; making a total addition of about \$130,000,000 to our stock of the precious metals during that year; the effects of which naturally ran over into 1880. In 1880 we made a net import of specie of about \$65,000,000, add to which the home production estimated (in the absence of the annual statistics) at about \$55,000,000 which makes a still further addition of \$120,000,000 to our stock of gold and silver. This addition of \$250,000,000 to the national stock of the precious metals within two years, and the fact that most of it has been made available for use as currency, amounts to an immense power of inflation. Viewed as an increase by one-third of the whole volume of the circulating medium, as it stood on the day of resuming specie payments, its effect on prices must be conceded to have been immense. True, it has not produced any absolute plethora of money, nor any continuous ease in the loan market; on the contrary, the banks have frequently found it difficult to keep pace with the demand for accommodation and periods of marked stringency have occurred; but this only proves that the rise in prices has proceeded even more rapidly than the augmentation of the supply of money.

Here is the best practical illustration of the effect of quantity. In this case prices will continue to advance with every addition to the metallic currency, and the remedy must be sought in the increase of importation; that is, money will be transferred from the United States where it is cheap to countries where it is dearer. Beyond a certain point money causes no increase in wealth; that point once exceeded the purchasing power lessens, one hundred and fifty dollars to-day being no more valuable than one hundred a year ago. There is here no question of quality; depreciation is caused by quantity.

In the review of the calendar of the Tokio Daigaku we have had occasion to refer to the number of professors retained on the staff of the college. The following note from the *St. James's Gazette* of May 17th is a virtual contradiction of the official calendar just issued which gives the names of no less than twelve professors, of whom two only appear to be Germans. This is not the first time that Continental and English journals have been misled by correspondents in Tokio. This is the note with which reference is now made:—

"I am indebted" (writes a correspondent) "to one of the German professors at the University at Yeddo for the following particulars. The Japanese Government, finding it too costly to send a large number of students to Europe, and also that those sent did not do well without native supervision, re-

solved to start a university of their own, with English, French, and German professors, each lecturing in his own language. Whether because so many languages were confusing, or whether the Germans proved more solid in learning and teaching, the English and French masters were presently discarded; and now all the professors at the Yeddo University are Germans. With the exception of theology, all branches of study are represented, exactly as at Berlin or Heidelberg; and the University of Yeddo boasts of over a thousand Japanese students, who all have had six years' previous training in the German school or 'Gymnasium' of Yeddo, where they are not only obliged to pass a severe examination in order to qualify for the university, but are subjected to periodical examinations during the three or four years of college life. The examinations are more severe (my informant said) than even in Germany; but nevertheless many of the students obtained university honours. The majority of the students go into the medical profession, which pays better than any other in Japan. The pay of the professors is very liberal. The travelling expenses to Yokohama and back are allowed; each has a house and garden and about £1,200 per annum, and he is permitted to get what he may by private lectures or private practice. I could not help remarking how marvellously pushing the German Chancellor is; and I may mention that the Japanese Minister of Public Instruction is likewise a German, a professor of the University of Rostock. Upon this, the subject of the Emperor William smiled complacently, and informed me that the Chinese are also starting a German university at Peking, and that a friend of his had already been offered £2,000 a year to go there. 'You see,' he continued, 'the Japanese and the Chinese are afraid of English or French influence, and they know they have nothing to fear from Germany'—an explanation which does all honour to my Teutonic friend, and which Englishmen would do well to ponder."

The medical branch of the university appears to be essentially German in its professors and mode of instruction, but "one of the German professors at the university at Yeddo" does not mention this limitation; on the contrary, he very distinctly states that "the English and French masters were presently discarded; and now all the professors at the Yeddo university are German. With the exception of theology, all branches of study are represented." The last passage is clearly intended to embrace every department, including those of law, science, and literature, where ten out of twelve professors named in the calendar are English and American.

The accuracy of the remainder of the information given by "one of the German professors at Yeddo" may be estimated by comparison with the calendar just issued, and the remarkable statement that "the Japanese minister of public instruction is likewise a German, a professor of the University of Rostock. If this last assertion were true it would justify the eulogium on the pushing qualities of the German chancellor, but, unfortunately for German prestige, the ex-minister of public instruction, H. E. Kono Toshikami, is not a German, nor is the present minister, H. E. Fukuoka Kotei, late a member of the Genro-in.

With what object these inaccurate notices of Japanese affairs are sent to Europe it is difficult if not impossible for those not in the secret to understand, unless we may take them to be forecasts of what is likely to follow the policy of the German minister now in Japan. Respectable journals like the *Cologne Gazette* and *Allgemeine Zeitung*, are frequently misled by untruthful reports; and it now seems that a tentative step in the same direction has been taken with the *St. James's Gazette*.

Loud and frequent, and in most cases perfectly justifiable, have been the complaints made against that, after all, hardworking individual, the jinrikisha coolie; but what shall be said about the present miserable means of

carrying passengers between ship and shore, and *vice versa*? The size and importance of a port like that of Yokohama surely demands that some adequate provision be made for the conveyance of passengers to and from vessels in the harbour; yet what do we find? An inadequate supply of native sampans or *jigi funi*—save the mark—manned either by an old decrepit poor blind boatman and a child, or a set of lazy rascals whose ruffianism and insolence exceed belief.

A few remarks recently made in this journal, respecting the Engineering College have been made the object of some unjustifiable criticism. Whether the Engineering College is a section of the Tokio University or Public Works Department is a refinement so immaterial that a statement giving the University the honour of connection with the Kōbu Daigaku did not seem worth the correction which has been made, in a forced and laboured paragraph, by a contemporary journal.

The same journal rudely asks us, in plain terms, to draw individual comparisons between the gentlemen who are remaining on the staff of the Engineering College and those who are leaving. That the names of any of the professors should have been introduced at all, and particularly for the purpose of comparing their respective claims to retain their posts is much to be regretted. The action is unnecessary, invidious, and betrays an utter absence of delicacy and polite feeling. We have, and have always had, very great respect for the gentlemen who fill the chairs in the University and Engineering College. They are all men of education, of liberal sentiments and zealous in their profession; and the government have been singularly fortunate in their selection. When we ventured to remark upon the qualifications of those gentlemen who are about to leave the service of the Japanese government (of whom there are several in each department) we referred to those who were dismissed as a part effect or consequence of the recent, and no doubt justifiable, economic fever which has seized the government, and added that some of the gentlemen who were leaving possessed greater qualifications than some of those who are to remain. Our contemporary instantly prints a list of names and challenges us to distinguish between them. This we decline to do, but we may remark that one of the lists is imperfect, only four names appearing in the list of those about to leave, instead of six. The names omitted we take the liberty of supplying. They are Captain F. Brinkley, R.A., and Mr. David Henry Marshall, M.A. Perhaps this may alter the complexion of our contemporary's comments. We desired to be complimentary, but our efforts appear to have missed their mark.

With respect to Mr. John Perry we are glad to observe our fellow journalist regards him as "a gentleman of brilliant parts, who is earning, and deserves to earn, high repute as a scholar." How any other opinion could be formed we fail to see. Judging from the newspapers and journals which come into our hands almost every mail, we are inclined to remain convinced that the Engineering College of Japan will long be known and respected through its connection with Messrs. Perry and Ayrton who have already earned for themselves, in the first nations in the world, positions in the foremost rank of the pioneers of inventive science. Not long ago, a member of parliament having occasion to speak of Japan, referred to the Engineering College as

an institution distinguished by having had the services of Mr. Perry. When our contemporary commences to ramble about the wisdom of the Japanese government in refusing to renew Mr. Perry's engagement, we unhesitatingly declare it is appearing in the unenviable character of defender of a cause which in honour is indefensible. When Mr. Perry was about to leave the Engineering College, we were in possession of full particulars of all that had then occurred; and amongst other things of the fact that *all* (the italics are Mr. Perry's) the professors protested against the manner in which Mr. Perry was being treated by the then acting minister of public works. In making that protest, Mr. Perry gave us the name of the gentleman who acted as spokesman; and that gentleman is now editor of the journal which contains this extraordinary statement, "When he (Mr. Perry) left the Engineering College, his colleagues, one and all, thought it necessary to place on record their disapproval of his attitude towards the minister of public works." That this should be true is not improbable, for, in Mr. Perry's words published before the extraordinary and contradictory resolution alluded to was passed, it is "natural for foreigners (in the service of the Japanese) to be cautious in opposition, even if the matter in question concerned their own salvation." This sentence is extracted from the "marvellous manifesto" referred to by our contemporary. This "manifesto," the just expression of resentment at the indignities offered to the feelings of a gentleman, we are proud of; and the sooner we see similar letters—letters like those of Mr. Perry, Mr. Gaujot, and others—the sooner shall we learn more accurately the system under which foreigners are bound to their Japanese employers, and the sooner will the Japanese understand that there are men who are not afraid to speak the truth.

In this, as in many other matters, the journalist who has undertaken to criticise the articles and notes published in the *Japan Gazette*, must find how dangerous it is to undertake the task without full knowledge; and that a closer adherence to actual facts is an essential. "Fais ce que dois; advienne que pourra."

A young gentleman attached to the Japanese legation in London, and who will probably be recalled for his action, has been addressing a meeting, presumably of his countrymen, held in one of the hotels, on Japanese matters, in the course of which he made the following statements.

"You are all aware that I hold liberal principles and am an advocate for constitutional government, still I hold frequent ministerial changes to be injudicious.

"Our present government are especially liable to commit errors because they are but an association of members selected from two or three of the most powerful clans, without the advantage of being led by a statesman of weight and experience: consequently, their acts have, in many cases been inconsistent. This is well known in connection with the actions of our cabinet.

"Financial affairs I regard with dissatisfaction. The government have adopted the policy of protecting private undertakings; and in pursuance of this policy they have subscribed one-third of the capital of the Specie Bank, and advanced 3,000,000 yen to that institution. Of course, the government have some object in thus acting, but the wisdom of their action is open to criticism, and wide difference of opinion exists.

"The government are reported to have favoured a new commercial policy recently discovered called direct exportation; and they are said to grant special protection to merchants who engage in this business. There is scarcely an instance in the history of any foreign country of the success of such a policy.

"Treaty revision has been long delayed, and no satisfactory termination of the negotiations seems probable at present. The government have apparently abandoned their claim to territorial jurisdiction over aliens which was their first object, confining their demand to the right of controlling their own customs tariff. This demand is complicated by inconsistency. Preliminary negotiations were opened with the foreign representatives in Tokio, when the increased tariff was said to be necessary for revenue purposes: subsequently, our diplomatic agents abroad held conferences with foreign governments, when the enhanced tariff was said to be necessary for the protection of native industries."

Our remonstrances against the continuance of the practice of saluting meet with general approval. The settlement and bluff are so open that the full force of a cannonade is directed towards the town, and the sound is heard in nearly every portion of it. The nuisance, however, is chiefly observable on the bund, and those portions of the bluff that have a northern and eastern aspect. As a rule, the majority of ships of war lie within a mile or less of the bund, small draft vessels frequently mooring close in shore. This is one part of the evil, and its full extent must be estimated by the fact that on an average at least one salute is fired every day, Sundays included, or probably 4000 to 5000 guns a year. Some of the vessels are not provided with what are termed saluting batteries of small guns, and they have resort to very heavy cannon, the report of which shakes houses with the violence of small earthquakes, breaks windows, interrupts business, and creates general annoyance. A correspondent says, "You have little idea the nuisance the *Monocacy* is. Then those terrible destroyers of the British mercantile marine, the Russian cruisers, are so fond of displaying their destructive powers, that there is little if any peace, and go where we will we cannot evade the horrible clamour which is worrying to those who are well and cruel to those who are sick. If nothing else can be done, perhaps the senior naval officers will give orders for light draft vessels to lie at a respectable distance from the shore."

We have no doubt that when the grievance under which the community labours is brought to their notice, the naval commanding officers on this station will take steps to limit the now almost incessant firing of guns on every trifling occasion; for if they do not the residents will be forced to remonstrate through the respective representatives of the nations who are the chief offenders.

We observe the flying squadron of British ships is due here at the end of August, with the sons of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales on board. The process of saluting the port, the various other ships of war, responding, receiving visitors, &c. will last several days, during which this place will be turned into Pandemonium; and if nervous or excitable people don't get away to Hakone or Nikko they will be subjected to a most disagreeable ordeal. The groundwork of this complaint is serious. The greater the experience of earthquakes the more they are feared, and



the same rule applies to naval saluting—the more we have of it the more intolerable the nuisance becomes.

THE estimates for the forthcoming fiscal year are being perfected. The expenditure of the ministry of the interior, some branches of the department having been transferred to the agricultural and commercial section, will be reduced by 435,000 yen; that is from yen 1,647,150 to yen 1,235,794. Departmental economy must be carried further than this, if the aggregate expenses are to be reduced on the estimates of last year, and 1,400,000 yen for the new ministry of agriculture and trade provided for.

THE *Hochi Shinbun* gives some returns respecting vaccination which do not seem very satisfactory in one sense, though encouraging in another. The number of children vaccinated in Tokio during the half year ending December 31st last, was 6,025, of which 85 cases were failures. Of second and third vaccinations there were 200, of which 36 patients only seemed to be affected in the desired manner. The number of births recorded during the interval was 15,554, consequently only 38.7 per cent. of the total number of children born were inoculated. When the rate of mortality is deducted these returns may be considerably modified: therefore, when the prejudices of the people and the difficulties encountered by the government in establishing the system are properly estimated, the result must appear eminently satisfactory.

He who would render a service to medical science should write a paper showing the decrease of small pox with the spread of vaccination. The vital statistics now prepared in Tokio would throw much light on this subject.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* says that a new life insurance company is projected; and will be brought out under the auspices of the Mitsui Bishi Company.

WE observe with much pleasure that the suggestions put forward by us some time ago for a new theatre are likely to be carried into execution. Several meetings of the Choral Society have been held; and we now understand a special meeting of members is called for the 27th instant to consider plans and propositions for the realisation of the project.

This is a matter upon which the members of the Choral Society are to be congratulated. There should be no difficulty whatever in obtaining the funds required to erect a building which shall be creditable to the settlement, and no obstacle in that way need be feared. The next point, and one of great importance, is the site. A good position for a theatre is indispensable; especially if the funds are to be raised on debenture bonds, which course will probably be pursued. The security is infinitely greater if the site is eligible; and shareholders will find their bonds readily saleable if the building occupies a prominent place, whereas, if it is hidden in some out of the way corner, the scrip will, after the first few months, become almost unmarketable. Too much importance cannot be attached to appearances in matters of this sort.

Between nine and ten o'clock on Tuesday evening (June 22nd) the fire bell on the bluff was heard. The light from the premises of Dr. Nathan Brown, who resides at No. 67, indicated the position. The fire

originated in the servants' quarters, connected with the main building by a wooden weather-screen. This screen was speedily removed by those who had gathered to assist in staying the progress of the flames. The fire burned slowly, there being little or no wind, and the outhouses were composed of tile and plaster; and though the resources at hand for extinguishing a fire were not great, a few foreigners and Japanese worked with such a will that in fifteen minutes the danger was over, the flames having been successfully confined to the out-houses. The origin of the fire is attributed to an incendiary; and this supposition is borne out by the fact that the only box stolen was that in which Dr. Brown usually keeps his money and valuable papers. This morning the box was found broken open and a cash box abstracted. The cash box, unfortunately for the thief, contained no money; but, unfortunately for the doctor, it contained the deeds of his house and other valuable papers. In the box broken open was a considerable quantity of silver and satsu, but the thief, thinking the money would be in the cash box, never troubled himself about the rest of the articles. As usual, considerable difficulty was experienced in keeping Japanese out of the house; and though the native police turned out in force they had no system of working.

THAT enthusiastic journal the *Hochi Shinbun* announces the proposed formation of a company for the manufacture of copper. So far we judge that the undertaking is successful, for we are told that there are 5000 shares of 100 yen each which are now, in consequence of the demand, at nearly 100 per cent. premium. Machinery has been imported from the United States, and the buildings required are nearly completed. In addition to plates, wire, nails, &c., the company intend to make yellow metal and sheet copper for sheathing the bottoms of vessels; work that hitherto, for want of machinery, could not be performed in this country which produces so much copper. An export of this commodity is expected; and if the work is well done and prices reasonable, there is no doubt that a copper producing country should find such an industry highly remunerative. Every thing seems in favour of the new company with one exception—the chief movers are Mr. Godai, the eminent discoverer of the art of making indigo out of the leaves of the *sato-imo*; and Messrs. Sumitomo and Nakano.

REFERRING to native manufactories reminds us of a complaint which will furnish the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* with a fresh illustration of the power of foreign competition to stimulate and maintain, in a high state of excellence, home industries. When the business of match making was first undertaken, there was a considerable import of these goods which, however, soon died out from natural causes, and home made matches supplied the wants of the country. Competition in the form of importation removed, the match makers have gone from good to indifferent, and by rapid stages to dangerous badness. Some of the things sold under the title of safety matches are scarcely fit to use, the utmost caution being required to intercept the burning matter which flies in all directions when the match is ignited. Even the best matches are so poor that already there are rumours of a resort to importation. Match manufacturers will do well to take a note of this, and accept this advice, which is well meant:—if you undertake to

do a thing do it well. The defunct Captain Swosser was in the habit of impressing upon his midshipmen this wholesome precept in more homely terms, thus, if you have to make pitch hot you cannot make it too hot; and if you have to swab the decks, why, swab as if Davy Jones were after you.

MR. YAMAHARA TOMIHISA, a shizoku of Osaka fu, is in luck. He has discovered that a disused mine in Tojima is richly auriferous, a trial made by permission showing seven to thirty parts of pure gold in one hundred thousand parts of ore. As the lode extends over several hundred square eho, the deposit is considerable; and machinery having been ordered, extensive operations will soon commence.

THE *Echo du Japon* recently announced that information had been received from a private source that rumours were current in high political quarters to the effect that negotiations for treaty revision had been temporarily abandoned; and that the promulgation of the new penal and civil codes had been indefinitely postponed. The *Japan Herald* reproduces this paragraph adding that the statement is not unlikely to be correct; assigning certain reasons for its belief which are in concord with a very general opinion, except on one point to which we will advert on another occasion. Notice of desire to revise the treaties was given by the present government of Japan in 1871, and have ever since been pending. Foreign governments are resolute in regard to the maintenance of the extra-territorial condition, and from what we hear from trustworthy sources in London, from persons well acquainted with Japan and her foreign relations, there is no hope of the slightest concession on this point. On the other points, such as the tariff and regulations of trade, there is nothing in dispute that need delay the revision. Everything, therefore, seems to support the rumoured abandonment of the protracted negotiation of the treaties of 1858, which have not, much as they have been maligned, operated adversely to the interests of Japan.

Rumours as a rule do not deserve much credence, particularly those in reference to treaty revision; but something more definitive is required to remove the impressions these reports create than the imperative denial of another journal. "There is no truth whatever in the rumour that the question of treaty revision has been postponed *sine die*," says the *Daily Mail* of to-day, and further, that the promulgation of the new codes is deferred consequent only upon the difficulty of constructing the machinery necessary for carrying out those codes. Before these apparently authoritative denials can be received, the government must take measures to declare the *Japan Mail* the official organ of the state. When that is done the public will know the source of the information on which the journal relies. In the meantime a reasonable rumour published in one paper and referred to in another as being in all probability true, is flatly contradicted by a third. The experience of the readers of the *Japan Mail* in the accuracy of that otherwise estimable journal has been severely shaken by its late defence of the coast trade monopoly; and no further confidence is felt in it for those assertions capable of being tested have turned out to be utterly groundless and to have been employed for purposes quite incompatible with sincerity and a real regard for the welfare of the nation as distinct from the welfare of a favoured individual.

At any other season of the year we should have much satisfaction in announcing that the governor of Kanagawa is about to undertake a thorough inspection and repair of existing drains and sewers in the settlement, and the construction of new ones wherever necessary. This work has been in contemplation for some time, though want of funds and other causes have retarded its execution; but now tenders for the work have been sent in and we believe one has been accepted.

There is no doubt the condition of the drains requires attention; and any steps in this direction will be hailed with satisfaction; still we cannot view without apprehension the commencement of extensive repairs likely to necessitate the opening and exposure of numerous sewers at one time during the hottest and driest period of the year. In the ordinary course of the seasons we cannot expect more than two or three inches of rain until September next; and as the mean temperature of July and August is within a fraction of 80° Fah., the sun frequently reaching 118° to 122°, the wholesale exposure of the sewers is a proceeding that cannot be contemplated without apprehension for the state of the public health. The early spring is undoubtedly the best time for the performance of this work; after that the autumn rains should be availed of and made serviceable as natural deodorizers. We are not without hopes, therefore, that the local authorities will defer the commencement of extensive sewage repair until the hot season is fairly passed, say about the early part of September. In the meantime, any work of a pressing character may be performed by degrees; and the public will be saved from unnecessary inconvenience during a period of the year when a full and free supply of pure air is indispensable to the preservation of health.

PARTLY owing to the uncertainty of the weather, and also on account of the mail steamers' departures on Saturday (June 25th) the proposed return match of "Scotland vs. The World" could not be taken as many of the Scotch side were not able to attend. Messrs. Abbott and Wheeler chose teams from those on the ground at 2.30 p.m., and the former sent his side in. Mr. D'Almeida and Mr. Trevethick took the wickets to the bowling of Dr. Wheeler and Mr. Mollison. The first wicket was soon disposed of and Mr. Duff then commenced one of the best innings that has ever been played in Yokohama; although he was "let off" two or three times. His batting throughout was graceful and scientific, and he proved himself to be a very valuable addition to the club, carrying his bat with the high score of 83 including two fours, four threes, and seventeen twos. Mr. Durant somewhat disappointed the spectators, and has adopted a "careful" style which does not suit him. Mr. Barlow played in good form and added 11 to the score which closed at 147 (including 13 wides). Mr. Milne must be complimented on his long stopping. There was only one bye and that was stolen. There were too many changes in the bowling, and one over of 'slows' contributed 10 runs to the score. Dr. Wheeler's side, although apparently the stronger in every respect, fared but badly. Mr. Stephens was the only one who got into double figures, with a score of 23, and unfortunately ran himself out just as time was called. He and Mr. Milne however managed to increase the score by running 12 byes in the short time they were in together. The wickets were drawn at 7 o'clock when the score stood 54 with four wickets to go down,

The fielding was not particularly good on either side, except one catch made by Mr. Durant.

The following is the score and bowling analysis:—

MR. ABBOTT'S SIDE.			
J. D'Almeida, c. Mollison, b. Wheeler	...	3	
F. H. Trevethick, b. Mollison	...	8	
C. M. Duff, not out	...	83	
B. Durant, b. Sutter	...	5	
E. Abbott, b. Wheeler	...	8	
J. Dodds, b. Wheeler	...	9	
E. Lewis, b. Sutter	...	0	
J. H. Thompson, c. Stephens, b. Hearne	...	2	
H. Barlow, b. Sutter	...	11	
E. J. Moss, c. Wheeler, b. Sutter	...	2	
G. W. F. Playfair, b. Hearne	...	1	
Byes	...	1	
Leg Byes	...	1	
Wides	...	13	
			147

DR. WHEELER'S SIDE.			
E. Wheeler, b. Abbott	...	0	
F. W. Playfair, c. Abbott, b. Duff	...	2	
G. Hamilton, c. Durant, b. Abbott	...	8	
J. Sutter, b. Duff	...	0	
J. P. Mollison, b. Duff	...	0	
C. E. Stephens, run out	...	23	
A. Milne, not out	...	2	
A. Hearne	...	—	
C. E. Churchill	...	—	
T. G. Richmond	...	—	
Byes	...	14	
Leg Byes	...	2	
Wides	...	3	
			54

#### BOWLING ANALYSIS DR. WHEELER'S SIDE.

	Balls.	Runs.	Maklens.	Wickets.	Wides.
Wheeler	85	42	3	3	3
Mollison	25	21	1	1	2
Sutter	70	23	4	4	7
Playfair	40	16	2	—	—
Hearne	47	18	—	2	—
Hamilton	30	12	1	—	1

MR. ABBOTT'S SIDE.			
Abbott	70	26	5
Duff	69	10	6

THE race meeting held at Mita yesterday (June 26th) is said to have been in every respect successful. Our Japanese friends seem to enter into this sport with unusual eagerness.

In the afternoon his Majesty the Mikado, attended by Prince Higashi Fushimi-no-miya, Prince Fushimi-no-miya, the minister of the household, and other high officials, was present, and appeared to take much interest in the proceedings. A naval band was in attendance.

Among the passengers arrived on the 30th ult. by the M.B.S.S. *Tokio Maru* from Shanghai, we observe the name of Mr. A. E. Olarovsky. This gentleman, well known to residents of Yokohama, was for some years Consul for Russia at Nagasaki, the most important Russian consular post in Japan. A short time ago Mr. Olarovsky returned to St. Petersburg, where he received the higher appointment of Consul-General in San Francisco, to which city he is now en route.

Mr. Olarovsky was not allowed to leave Nagasaki, where his long tenure of office and courteous administration of its duties, had secured him numerous friends, without many expressions of esteem; and in venturing to congratulate this popular member of foreign society in Japan on his well-deserved promotion to higher office, and the good people of San Francisco on an acquisition they will know how to appreciate, we cannot but view his departure from these shores with regret not wholly selfish. Mr. Olarovsky will have the satisfaction of knowing that he carries away with him the regard of many Japanese and foreigners in Japan who unite in cordial wishes for his future prosperity.

THE match at 700 yards for a prize presented by a member of the Yokohama Rifle Association, took place yesterday afternoon (28 June), amidst a good deal of rain. There was no wind and the light was clear. The leading scores were

Mr. Beretta	...	46 point.
„ Gilbert	...	41 „
„ Cameron	...	36 „
„ Favre-Brandt	...	32 „

Mr. Beretta thus winning with the astonishing score of 46 points out of a possible 50.

#### TIE de Consolation, 29th June, 1881.

1st prize.	Mr. C. Dubois	...	44 points.
2nd „	Mr. C. Weinberger	...	40 „
3rd „	Mr. C. Stiebel	...	30 „

16 competitors.

YESTERDAY afternoon (June 29th), notwithstanding unfavourable weather, the first contest at a game of base-ball between a team composed of members of the cricket club, and a team composed of members of the base-ball club, took place. It required no prophet to prognosticate the issue, as it was very well known that, with ones or two exceptions, the cricketers were totally unacquainted with the American game. Still they pluckily contested the game throughout, improving wonderfully towards the finish. We venture to say that, with a little more practice, the cricketers will be no mean competitors of the local club at the interesting game of base ball. Appended is the score.

#### BASE BALL CLUB.

	Pos.	Runs.	Outs.
Merriman, W. L.	...	C. 2	3
Denison	...	L.F. 2	1
Van Buren, J. S.	...	P. 2	3
Morse, F. S.	...	2B. 2	3
Merriman, C. H.	...	S.S. 2	2
Van Buren, H. S.	...	1B. 1	2
Samuels	...	C.F. 1	3
Morse, J. R.	...	R.F. 2	1
Beauchamp	...	3B. 1	3
			15

#### CRICKET CLUB.

	Pos.	Runs.	Outs.
Abbott	...	S.S. 0	4
Churchill	...	P. 0	4
Durant	...	2B. 1	2
Hamilton	...	C. 1	2
Stephens	...	C.F. 0	3
Sutter	...	3B. 2	1
Veitch	...	R.F. 1	1
Thompson	...	1B. 1	2
Moss, C.D.	...	L.F. 0	2
			6

Innings	...	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Base Ball Club	...	4	1	1	2	2	4	1=15
Cricket Club	...	0	0	0	0	3	3	0=6

The game was called at the close of the 7th innings on account of the rain.

THE *Mainichi Shinbun*, with delightful vagueness, reports that a number of spies have been despatched from Kanagawa-ken to Tokio, but by whom, or with what object, it does not pretend to have any idea.

A NEW audience hall is to be erected at the Imperial palace at an expenditure of yen 419,346, says the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun*.

THE railway between Tsuruga and Otsu is being rapidly pushed forward, and the whole line is expected to be completed by the end of November. The construction of the railway between Tokio and Takasaki will be commenced in August next.



We regret to learn that a heavy flood in the province of Bitchu has done considerable injury to the rice crops in that locality, besides washing away a number of houses.

It is generally believed, both by foreigners and Japanese, that the majority of fires which break out in Tokio and Yokohama every year are the work of incendiaries, notwithstanding the fact that the punishment for incendiarism is decapitation. The motives are generally trifling—the chance of a little plunder or the desire to stimulate a certain trade, such as carpentering or house building, are considered quite sufficient inducements to burn out an individual or half a city. There seems to be no doubt that the recent conflagration at Dr. Brown's was the work of an incendiary, and we are glad to learn that the police are actively engaged in investigating the origin of the fire with a very good prospect of success.

In reporting the circumstance of the fire at Dr. Brown's residence, No. 67, Bluff, a few days since, we mentioned that a box containing money and valuable papers had been stolen, broken open, and a cash box abstracted. We now learn that the police have succeeded in arresting the thief, who proved to be Dr. Brown's kuruma driver. This man had been in the habit of frequently attending the doctor in his study, and, no doubt, in this way became acquainted with the contents of the box, which, in the confusion consequent on the outbreak of the fire, he managed to get away with as far as a fence at the rear. This fence, however, was too high for him to get the box over, so he forced it open and took what he considered was the most valuable article—the cash box. After the fire the somewhat erratic conduct of the man, coupled with other circumstances, caused him to be suspected and the police were put on his track. On his arrest two bank deposit receipts, the property of Dr. Brown, were found on his person; and a netsuké was also discovered in his house. It took the police but a very short time to make their prisoner confess he was the thief, and that he had succeeded in taking about sixty yen out of the box. With this sum, it appears from his own account, he purchased a new suit of clothes; and probably being desirous of studying the value of time, he also invested in a watch. These articles, with numerous sundries, reduced the sixty yen to twenty, which sum the police contrived to get hold of. The other papers, comprising the deed of Dr. Brown's house and documents equally as, if not more, important the rascal says he threw into the canal.

We regret to learn from the *Mai Nichi Shinbun* that the heavy rains in the western provinces have caused much damage to the growing crops. In Ishikawa-ken the rivers have overflowed their banks, and the water, flooding the country, has done grievous injury. From the 19th to 22nd instant excessively heavy rain fell in Totomi, rivers overflowed, and whole villages were inundated, wheat crops and young rice plants being swept away or covered with sand; while even houses and bridges gave in. Idzu is also flooded, and the damage, though not particularized, is said to be extensive. In Mino some of the rivers rose seventeen feet above their normal levels, breaking away the banks and flooding the surrounding country.

NAMBU has long been known as a horse breeding district, improvement in production dating from the importation of an Arabian horse into Sumitanino. Since that time the

demand for horses has rapidly increased, but as the supply does not keep pace with the requirement, its, a steady advance in price is the consequence. The reasonable conclusion is that supply would increase in some proportion to the demand, but this does not appear to be the case, as the following figures will show.

Year.	Horses sold.	Total value yen.	Value per head yen.
1877 .....	3,331 ...	44,201 ...	13.27
1878 .....	3,220 ...	57,363 ...	17.81
1879 .....	3,014 ...	97,387 ...	32.31
1880 .....	3,498 ...	156,377 ...	44.70

THE following extract from the letter of a well known Yokohama resident, written in Onobetsu on the 23rd April, will be read with interest. The winter, which was unusually severe throughout the northern hemisphere, must have been intensely cold in the Okhotsk, and Behring Seas; the only mode occurring to us of accounting for the quantities of ice met with in the forty-fourth parallel at the latter part of April.

"A chance offering to leave a letter on Iturup, I drop you a few lines with the information that the Arctic Circle or Frigid Zone has migrated or slipped over from the vicinity of the north pole and located itself around the Kurile islands and east coast of Yezo. What do you think of this for a passage? Eighteen days!! First part we had a N.E. gale after getting outside Cape King; then a series of calms, head winds, fair winds, and ice; the latter being the principal cause of our delay. We first fell in with the ice off Akis (Hamanaka); large fields with open channels between; on 17th, these channels closing up, we had to run to the southward some ten or twelve miles to get clear of it. 18th. Ice as far as we could see to N.N.E. and E., some of it five or six feet above the water. We still kept running to the east and south-east. On 19th we were in a channel with ice all round; the channel closing up, we got jammed and remained in the ice till daylight of 20th; managed to work through into a channel of open water again, and then stood to S.S.W. and S.E., some 40 miles to the south of Shikotan; then passed through a narrow neck of ice and found clear water to N.N.E. 21st. Running to N.N.E. with a fair wind, at about 6 knots an hour, at 2.30 a.m. ran full into the ice again before sail could be got off her. The vessel was into it and I thought the last hours of the *Otome* had come, but fortunately the ice at the edge of the floe was somewhat broken up by the sea and softish; we went about three lengths of the ship into it and were pretty solidly fixed; found we were making no water, and after about two hours managed to get her out; then ran to S.W. till we met ice again, put vessel on other tack and stood to eastward, then to N.E. 22nd. Sighted Shikotan bearing V. by N. Evening becalmed off Iturup. 23rd. 6.30 a.m., Anchored in Japanese bay.

"The *Otome* is pretty well knocked about by the ice and is dented, slithered, and scratched.

"The extent of ice is more than ever known before for these latitudes, I should think. Of course, the most of it came through from the Okhotsk. I should judge the ice extends from the S.W. end of Iturup towards Shikotan, and some 15 miles to the eastward of it, 40 miles to the south, and from Akis 90 miles to the eastward. It is all round Nemuro and the islands to the east of Noshiaf are full up; probably there are some five or six thousand square miles of ice.

"The ice is all hummocky in masses from the size of a tumbler to a town hall."

A MEETING was held on Monday (June 28th) of those interested in the movement for the erection of a new theatre.

Plans and estimates were submitted for the inspection of the meeting, and we understand resolutions were come to by which the Choral Society and Dramatic Corps each subscribe \$500; the remainder of the capital required to be offered in debentures of \$50 each. A special committee will be appointed to carry out the resolution.

The papers received by every mail contain the prospectus of at least one new company; and the value of the shares rarely exceeds £5, unless the object is to limit the proprietary to few persons. The intention in valuing the shares at so low a figure as £5 and even £1, is to give everyone who wishes to have it an interest in the concern, and to ensure the greatest amount of publicity and popularity. A similar course might be adopted here. There are several people who will take a few shares at \$25 each who will not touch one at \$50. To assign reasons for this weakness is not our province; we only know the weakness prevails.

A LETTER from Osaka says that seven prisoners at the branch prison at Imaki-shinden, who were with other convicts employed in making a canal at the Kidzu river, were attacked with cholera, and, as this epidemic appeared to have a tendency to spread, work at the canal has been temporarily stopped. The patients were immediately conveyed to the hospital, where there are at present nine persons suffering from the disease.

A SAILING vessel is reported to have been wrecked off Shimoda, Idzu, while returning from Ogasawara-shima. The ship is said to have belonged to the government. An inquiry is now being made.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* says that the Japanese officials in Korea, were informed by some Korean official that the celebrated Ritonin, who was said to have been poisoned by the conservative party, is still alive, and, had not illness prevented him, would have accompanied the embassy now in Japan.

The same paper also states that the projectors of the new railroad company have addressed circulars to every fu and ken calling a general meeting in Tokio, for the purpose of electing officers, and framing rules.

MR. HANABUSA, chargé d'affaires to Korea, returned on the 1st July by the *Tokio Maru*.

THE *Hochi Shinbun* says the annual subsidy granted to the chambers of commerce, amounting to some one million yen, has, from this present month, been abolished, and the chambers will in future be supported by subscriptions from the members.

The foreign goods purchasing office of the finance department has also been abolished.

WE mentioned some time ago, that sham fights were to be held for the benefit of the Mikado whilst on his tour. We now hear that these will take place at Shirakawa, between the Sendai and Tokio garrisons.

A FIRE broke out in a Chinese gambling house on lot No. 164, Swamp Concession, at 4 o'clock this morning (1st July). Fire engines and a crowd soon gathered around the scene. The Victoria fire engine took up a position about a hundred yards from the fire and inserted a hose into the main drain, and for a few moments poured a continuous and effective stream

of muddy water on the flames; but this resource soon failed and the engine was then useless. However, notwithstanding the fact that the buildings where the fire originated and the building adjoining were composed of very inflammable material, the flames did not travel fast, there being an entire absence of wind, and after burning down two or three grog shops and a few Chinese shops, they were arrested, and a shower shortly afterwards assisted in putting out the embers. So far we have not been able to ascertain the cause of the fire.

THE following are the customs returns of exports and imports for the month of May:—

Exports.....	2,148,656
Imports.....	2,595,087

Excess of imports.....	446,431
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Customs duties, &c. ....	189,259
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Export of specie and bullion.....	709,627
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Import of specie and bullion.....	293,250
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THE following paragraph appeared in our morning issue of the 5th instant:—

With much regret we publish the substance of a telegram said to have been received yesterday in Tokio, and in all probability from the Japanese minister at Washington, to the effect that General Garfield, President of the United States, had been shot at and seriously wounded. No cause is assigned for what appears to be an attempt at assassination. In the course of the day telegrams will, no doubt, be received by the U. S. Consul General, and the true state of affairs will be made public without delay.

A Reuter's telegram since received confirms the intelligence and adds that President Garfield is in a desperate condition.

What motive existed for the crime is impossible to say. The public acts of the chief of the United States can never be for long oppressive or tyrannical; for though the position is second to none in rank and importance the American president is essentially a constitutional ruler, and is not, as an autocrat is, personally responsible for his public acts. Seventeen years only have elapsed since the cruel assassination of President Lincoln created a profound sensation wherever the news penetrated; and now, on the one hundred and fifth anniversary of the independence of the United States, another miscreant attempts a murder which is only too likely to be consummated.

This event will give rise to feelings of intense sympathy among all lovers and friends of the American Republic, not merely for President Garfield and his family but for the order-loving people of the Union. Murder has too long been suffered, and murderers permitted to ply their hideous vocation in the United States with impunity. The ruffian who shot De Young was acquitted. If therefore, justice is to be administered with equal hand what can be done to the would be murderer of the President? The use of the knife and the pistol should be punished with a short shrift and a stout rope; and we sincerely hope, for their own welfare, safety, and reputation, Americans will soon awake to the necessity of inexorably applying these remedies.

THE disposal by the government of those industrial undertakings of which so many have been founded at considerable cost to the state, is apparently limited to those that do not yield satisfactory returns. Several persons, it is said, made recent application for the purchase of the Miike colliery, but after taking time

to consider the public works department has declined to part with this property, valuable already, but doubly valuable in the hands of private persons.

Mr. SATO KAISEKI has encountered a little more than his match. At Kioto recently this distinguished political economist of the Henry Carey school, was in the act of carrying a large audience with him in his denunciation of importation, when a young student stepped to the front and asked the lecturer if he had ever travelled between Kioto, Osaka and Kobe. The reply was in the affirmative. "By boat, kago, or rail?" inquired his questioner. "By rail" said Mr. Sato Kaiseki. "Just so," rejoined the student, "the railroad is an importation. Why then do you support with your custom that which you condemn with your mouth? Why act one way and talk another?" The lecturer was astonished, and the student took advantage of his confusion to deliver an address setting forth the advantages of free trade, which so pleased the audience that Mr. Sato Kaiseki has since found his society diminished from 800 to 200 members.

MR. Secretary WINDOM sounds a note of genuine alarm at the condition of American trade and shipping.—

"Laws," said he, "must be passed tending to promote commerce and industry, and there should be a government department embracing commerce, agriculture, mining, and home and foreign manufacturing. Our shipping would not disappear from the ocean. The American producer must not be left to compete single-handed with the organized power of foreign countries," &c.

In reference to this the *Pall Mall Gazette* very sensibly says:—

All this means, we suppose, that the Government of Mr. Garfield intends to devote some part of the great resources placed at its disposal by the wonderful prosperity of the National Treasury to coddling sickly industries. Taxes will not be reduced, the people will not be unshackled. On the contrary, they will be kept in fetters for the benefit of the men who aim at assuming a great place in the world's trade at the nation's expense. 'Our prosperity will cease if we fail to find an open market,' the Secretary to the Treasury adds; and the way, of course, to find 'an open market' is to undersell everybody else. That can only be done by Americans through subsidies, if at all; and so the taxes must be kept up to find the means of fostering trade abroad. We wish the States joy of this policy; and on the maxim of 'the acuter the disease the sooner the crisis,' can have no objection to its getting a fair trial. Nothing will so certainly strengthen the already important free-trade party in the Union.

The policy adopted by the great republic unhappily finds favour in other parts of the world. Trade, to be truly beneficial to the nation engaged in it, must be unshackled. The government interfering in the principles of trade, or meddling with it in any way beyond establishing those laws for its regulation which experience shows to be necessary, exceed their province and retard, instead of furthering, the prosperity of the people.

THE alarm now openly manifested at the probable enhanced stringency of protective duties in the United States is rich in promise. Free trade America would give an impetus to production, and consequent abundant demand for labour, such as the world has never yet seen. The free trade party is growing in strength. Their text is that "everything the American farmer buys is protected, and everything he sells is sold in a free market. The timber for his barn is taxed 20 per cent.; the paint he puts on it is taxed 40 per cent.; the iron he uses is taxed 35

per cent., and so on. Railway freights are increased by the protection of all railway materials, ocean freights mount up because of the protective imposition upon foreign freights, and because American shipping has been swept from the seas by the protective navigation laws. Everything the agriculturist has to pay for is protected; but there is no protection for the farmer's wheat or the planter's cotton. The prices of these products are fixed at Liverpool, where the protective hand of America cannot reach." When the advocates of the present system of protection attempt to disprove these statements, or show that protective laws are in any sense beneficial to the commerce of the nation employing them, a discussion will arise that can have but one termination. This, however, is what protectionists particularly desire to avoid. They are in possession of the field which they will retain until routed by the force of common sense supported by actual results of the mistaken policy which keeps a bad second in commerce the nation which, of all others, is most fitted to take the leading place.

"If the American shipbuilder were not left to compete single-handed with the organized power of foreign countries, our shipping would not disappear from the ocean." This is what Mr. Windom says, but he mistakes cause for effect. It is the protection of the American shipbuilder which is driving American shipping from the ocean. The navigation laws have had the inevitable effect of all such laws; a few shipbuilders have profited while the importance of the nation on the sea has been diminished. The following statistics speak volumes.

The building of ships and barques employed in the foreign commerce of the United States fell from an annual average of 233 during ten years from 1851 to 1860 to an annual average of 56 from 1871 to 1880. There were only 23 ships and barques built during the year ended June 30, 1880. The tonnage of iron vessels built in that country during the last five years amounted to only 101,823 tons, almost entirely for the coastwise or home trade, in which no foreign competition is allowed under the provision of the American navigation laws, whereas the iron shipbuilding of Great Britain, during the last five years reported, amounted to 1,800,193 tons. The total tonnage of the United States employed in foreign trade fell from 2,379,396 tons in 1860 to 1,314,402 tons during the year ending June 30, 1880. During the year ending June 30, 1880, the total value of commodities transported in American and foreign vessels (imports and exports) amounted to the sum of \$1,589,472,093, of which the value transmitted by American vessels amounted to only \$280,005,497, or 17.6 per cent., and the value transported in foreign vessels amounted to \$1,309,466,496, or about 83 per cent. A marked decline in the proportion of the commodities carried in American vessels has taken place during the past year, the falling off having been from 23 per cent. in 1879 to 17.6 per cent. in 1880.

If the United States were, like Japan, to close all her ports to foreign commerce except half a dozen, what would become of her trade if the navigation laws were maintained in force?

THE control of the coastwise service, and its limitation to vessels not of Japanese build but purchased and put under the Japanese flag, is one of the "sovereign rights" of this empire. It means that the producer must, in order to find an "open market," without which Mr. Secretary Windom declares the prosperity of the United States will cease, convey his commodities to a treaty port. Will the advocates of the coast monopoly say how the producer is to carry out this essential to an open market? We will anticipate reference to the fine fleet of thirty odd vessels of 28,000 tons belonging to



the official monopolists, 25,000 tons more in the possession of private persons, and the "immense fleet" of slow, unseaworthy and uninsurable junks, and say that if all the available tonnage of Japan were employed in one branch of the coast trade alone, it would be found insufficient to perform one-third of the requirements of that particular line.

THE more far-seeing of the ministers are beginning to recognize the injury the country has sustained from two causes:—insufficiency of open ports, and the inadequacy of Japanese shipping to compensate for so tremendous a disadvantage. Rumours, which we merely mention because we believe there is some truth in them, are to the effect that one minister, whose influence is as considerable as his experience is extensive, is opposing a bold front to the exclusive policy which keeps Japanese commerce at its present insignificant figure, and confines the little that is done to the privileged few. His views are said to be comprehensive, and even to embrace the opening of every port in the country to those persons who desire to trade there. These privileges are, of course, to be made conditional; and there is no reason why such conditions should not be embodied in a treaty and made the law of the country accepting them. There are numerous ways in which the great obstacle of extra-territoriality, so naturally hurtful to the feelings of a proud people, can be removed; and there is little doubt that so soon as intercourse between Japanese and foreigners extends the wealth of the country will rapidly increase; and in the natural order of thing the laws of the country must then be observed, and jurisdiction will be eventually acquired by the nation far more quickly than can be hoped for under the existing condition of affairs.

THE native press contains references to a new silk company. Mr. Hitaki Jiro, of Kagoshima, in conjunction with Messrs. Shimomura, Katsuyama and Takenouchi, noted silk producers of Mayebashi, Amemiya and others of Kofu, and Hara Zensaburo and Mogi Sobei of Yokohama, is about to apply to the government for permission to found a great silk undertaking. The objects are not particularly clear. The prospectus we understand sets out that so far no large company for conducting silk transactions exists in Japan, consequently those profits which properly belong to Japanese are "grasped with the paw," (*tsukamu*) by foreigners. Mr. Hitaki Jiro, knowing this, recently visited foreign countries, examined the markets, and returned to Japan to form this company to "grasp with its paw" all the profits which foreigners have heretofore made. There will, however, be one important difference between dealing with foreigners and with the new company. The former pay in silver, and always in advance of the home markets; the latter will pay —. Well, we must not be too hard upon the enterprising persons whose experience of the silk trade is sufficient to show them the best course to pursue.

A somewhat discouraging item of news for the proposed silk company is a paragraph in the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* about the result of Mr. Fukushima's silk-egg ventures to Italy. 54,000 cards of Shimamura seed were favourably received and 45,000 soon sold, but no price is named. 120,000 cards of other seed did not meet with similar ready sale, only one-half finding purchasers at prices which, freight and charges considered, the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* says, made the business one of great difficulty.

VISITORS to the Second Industrial Exhibition during the four months numbered 738,499; and receipts amounted to 65,222 yen.

THE Fourth of July has been allowed to pass with little demonstration. The men-of-war in harbour were dressed at an early hour this morning, and at noon the United States flag was saluted in the customary manner.

The banks have been closed, and the anniversary has been made the occasion for a holiday in which all nationals have participated, although the arrival of the San Francisco mail rather interfered with its full enjoyment.

### THE AMENDED RUSSO-CHINESE TREATY.

We publish a translation of the first six articles of the amended Russo-Chinese treaty, and the remainder will follow in due course. This treaty was entered into by the Marquis Tseng on behalf of China and with M.M. Giers and Butzow who represented Russia. Substantially it is little different from the terms of the stipulations which Chung How agreed to and which exposed that unfortunate Minister to a large share of popular odium. Russia consents to restore Ili; but for this restoration, China agrees to pay her the sum 9,000,000 roubles, payment to be completed within the period of two years. By article VI of the treaty negotiated by Chung How China was to pay 5,000,000 roubles. The stipulations with respect to the "Act of Oblivion" which the Chinese agree to in future dealings with the inhabitants of Ili is somewhat important, as it will remove one motive for future revolt and its attendant international complications. Article II. provides that the inhabitants of Ili are not to be tried or punished for what they have done during the rebellion or after its pacification, and neither their liberty nor property will be interfered with. We are scarcely in a position to express an opinion as to the trade stipulations; but from what we can see they will prove advantageous, in different respects though, to both nations. It will be remembered that the treaty made by Chung How was severely criticised, and condemned in a series of memorials to the throne one of which, that presented by the Sub-Reader Chang Chih-tung was particularly outspoken. This memorial with the substance of the treaty we published on 15th May, 1880. The present treaty contains 20 articles and is supplemented by special Trade Regulations. The latter have 17 clauses principally dealing with octroi barriers on the north-west frontier and the Customs tariffs. With respect to the indemnity to be paid by China to Russia, it is stipulated by a special article of treaty that the sum (9,000,000 roubles) is to be paid in London within the period of two years, payment to be made in England the amount being £1,441,664.2s. This is to be paid in six instalments at the end of each four months at Messrs. Baring Brothers in London. We reserve comment on the Treaty and Trade Regulations until our readers are acquainted with their tenor. Meanwhile we publish the first six articles of

#### THE NEW TREATY BETWEEN RUSSIA AND CHINA.

His Majesty the Emperor of China and His Majesty the Emperor of Russia, being desirous to bring to a satisfactory conclusion the questions of the frontier and of trade in the interest of the two countries, and in order to

preserve friendly relations, for that purpose, have named as their Plenipotentiaries, that is to say:—

His Majesty the Emperor of China, Tseng, Minister Plenipotentiary to Russia, of the First Class of the Second Order of Nobility, Sub-Director of the Grand Court of Revision.

And His Majesty the Emperor of Russia, M. Giers, Member of the Council, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and President of the Senate; and M. Butzow, Minister Plenipotentiary to China;

Who, after having communicated to each other their respective full powers, and found them to be in good and due form, have agreed upon and concluded the following articles:—

ART. I.—His Majesty, the Emperor of Russia, hereby agrees to restore to China the territory of Ili which has been held on behalf of China by Russian troops since year 1871, whereupon that part in the West of Ili, the boundaries of which are defined in Art. VII. of this Treaty, will become Russian territory.

ART. II.—His Majesty, the Emperor of China, agrees to issue a Decree to the effect that the inhabitants of Ili, whether during the rebellion or after its pacification, will, without distinction of race or creed, be neither tried nor punished for anything they may have done, nor will their property be interfered with; and the Chinese officials will, previous to taking over Ili, issue a proclamation to the inhabitants of Ili in accordance with the terms of the gracious decree of His Majesty the Emperor of China.

ART. III.—The inhabitants of Ili are free either to remain where they are and become Chinese subjects, or they may go over to Russian territory; but previous to the rendition of Ili they must be asked distinctly whether they wish to go over to Russia, and a space of one year from the date of rendition of Ili will be given within which they may go over and take their property with them, and the Chinese officials will not prevent them.

ART. IV.—Russians who have purchased land within the territory of Ili will, after the restoration of Ili, retain their property as before; but those inhabitants of Ili who, at the time of the restoration of that territory, go over to Russia, cannot adduce this Article as a law affecting them. Land owned by Russians, with the exception of the allotments granted for trading purposes by Art. XIII., of the Treaty of Commerce signed at Kouldja in the year 1851, will pay the same taxes as land owned by Chinese.

ART. V.—High Officers will be deputed by both countries, the one side to hand over, and the other to take over Ili. They will conduct their negotiations in all matters affecting the transfer in accordance with the stipulations of the Treaty in the town of Ili; and the Governor-General of the provinces of Shensi and Kansuh, and the Governor-General of Turkestan will decide the manner and order of the negotiations to be conducted by the High officers. The Governor-General of Shensi and Kansuh will, on receipt of His Majesty the Emperor of China's commands assenting to the Treaty, depute a proper official to carry this information to the Governor-General of Turkestan; and within three months at most after the arrival of this official at Tashikan the transfer of Ili will be completed.

ART. VI.—His Majesty, the Emperor of China, agrees to pay to Russia the sum of 9,000,000 roubles as an indemnity for the military expenses incurred by Russia in holding and protecting Ili on behalf of China

since the year 1871, and in satisfaction of all claims by Russian merchants for losses by pillage within Chinese territory, and by Russians whose families have been maltreated; and this sum will be paid in two years from the date of the ratification in the manner laid down in the Special Article attached to this Treaty.

ART. VII.—A tract of country in the West of Ili is ceded to Russia, where those who go over to Russia and are thereby dispossessed of their land in Ili may settle. The boundary line of Chinese Ili and Russian territory will stretch from the Pieh-chên-tao mountains along the course of the Ho-êrh-kwo-ssü River to its junction with the Ili River, thence across the Ili River and south to the East of the village of Kwo-li-cha-tê on the Wu-taung-tao mountains, and from this point south along the old boundary line fixed by the agreement of Sa Chêng in the year 1864.

ART. VIII.—The boundary line to the east of the Chi-sang Lake fixed in the year 1864 by the agreement of Ta Chêng having proved unsatisfactory, high officers will be specially deputed by both countries jointly to examine and alter it so that a satisfactory result may be attained. That there may be no doubt what part of the Khassak country belongs to China and what to Russia, the boundary will consist in a straight line drawn from the Kwei Tung mountains across the River Hei-i-êrh-tê-shih to the Sa-wu-êrh range, and the high officers deputed to settle the boundary will fix the new boundary along such straight lines which is within the old boundary.

ART. IX.—Hitherto no boundary stones have been erected, but with regard to the boundary lines now fixed by Articles VII. and VIII., it will be the duty of the two countries specially to depute officials to erect boundary stones, and the said officials will meet at the place and time agreed upon by the two governments as to the boundary on the west between the province of Fei-êsh-kan, which is subject to Russia, and Chinese Kashgar, officials will be deputed by both countries to examine it, and they will fix the boundary line between the territories at present actually under the jurisdiction of either country, and they will erect boundary stones thereon.

ART. X.—By previous Treaties, Russia appointed Consuls at Ili, Tarbagatai, Kashgar, and Urga, and it is now agreed that Russian Consuls be appointed at Suchow, otherwise called Chia-yu-kwan, and at Turfan. When trade springs up at Kobdo, Uliasutai, Hami, Urumtsi, and Ku-ch'êng, negotiations will be entered into for the additional appointment of Russian Consuls at these places. It will be the duty of the Russian Consuls at Suchow, otherwise called Chia-yü-kwan, and at Turfan to deal with all matters affecting Russian subjects in the vicinity of these two places. Chia-yu-kwan and Turfan will come under Articles V and VI of the Treaty concluded at Peking in the year 1860, whereby permission is granted to erect residences and other buildings, and until Consulates are erected, the local authorities will assist the Consuls in leasing temporary residences. Russian consuls in Mongolia and in the south and north of the Tien-shan mountains may come and go and forward their correspondence; and by Art. XI., of the Treaty of Tientsin and Art. XII., of the Treaty of Peking they may use the Government post stations. The Chinese officials will, on request being made to them by the Russian Consuls, give the necessary directions. The appointment of a

Consul at Turfan, which is not a trading place, will not be considered as a precedent, and will not affect the various places open to trade nor places in the interior of the eighteen provinces and in Manchuria.

ART. XI.—Russian Consuls resident in China, when they have important official business to transact which calls for immediate settlement, will correspond officially with the local and other high authorities, and the officials of the two countries will in their personal interviews treat each other with that courtesy which becomes the officials of friendly powers. Should trouble arise between traders of the two countries in China, the Consul and the local authority will jointly deal with the matter. In disputes connected with trade both sides may produce witnesses and appoint arbitrators; but should such arbitration prove unsuccessful, the officials of the two countries will jointly deal with the case. In settling for goods and the import of goods, and in leasing shops and houses where the subjects of the two countries are concerned, contracts will be drawn up and laid before the Consul and the local authority, who will sign and seal the same in proof of such contract; and should the subjects of the two countries fail to draw up contracts, the Consul and the local authority will take steps to compel them so to do.

ART. XII.—Russians may trade in Mongolia and with the Mongolian tribes (whether or not there are Chinese officials stationed there) without paying duty, as formerly; and they may trade at Ili, Terbagatai, Kashgar, and Urumtsi, and at the various towns to the north and south of the Tien-shan without paying duty for the time being; but when trade springs up a fixed tariff will be drawn up and agreed upon by the two countries and the duty-free rate will be abolished. At the various places in China mentioned above, where Russians may trade in foreign and other merchandise, the system of ready money or barter may be employed; and Russians may also pay their debts with various kinds of goods.

ART. XIII.—At the places at which Russian Consuls are to be appointed and at Kalgan, Russians may build shops, houses, and godowns, whether they themselves purchase the land, or it is granted to them by the local authorities for building purposes in accordance with Art. III. of the Rules drawn up in the year 1851 for the regulation of trade at Ili and Tarbagatai. But this concession, allowing Russians to build shops, houses, and godowns at Kalgan, where there is no Consul, shall not be adduced as a precedent with regard to other places in the interior.

ART. XIV.—Russian merchants conveying goods overland into the interior of China for purposes of trade may, as formerly, pass through Kalgan and T'ungchow to Tientsin, whence the goods may be exported to other ports. They may also dispose of their goods at the above-mentioned places in the interior. Russian merchants may convey overland to Russia by the same route, goods purchased at the above-mentioned towns and trading places, and in the interior. Russian merchants may also proceed to Soochow (Chia-yü-kwan), for purposes of trade, but their caravans will stop there. The same facilities will be granted as at Tientsin.

ART. XV.—Russians in the interior of China and beyond the Wall engaged in the overland trade will abide by the Regulations attached to this Treaty. The Articles relating to trade contained in this Treaty and the

Overland Trade Regulations attached thereto may be revised after a lapse of ten years from the date of the ratification; but if notice is not given within a period of six months before the expiration of the ten years, of the modifications desired, they will remain in force for a further period of ten years. Russian merchants trading on the seaboard of China will abide by the regulations affecting other countries; and should it afterwards be found necessary to revise and modify such regulations, negotiations will be entered into for that purpose between the two countries.

ART. XVI.—When the Russian overland trade becomes prosperous, the two contracting Powers will agree upon and fix a tariff of duties on goods exported from and imported into China, which will prove even still more satisfactory than the present tariff. Generally speaking, the duty on imports and exports will be fixed at the rate of five per cent *ad valorem*. Until the tariff of duties is fixed, the export duty on the various second class teas, which at present pay the same duty as teas of the first class, will be reduced; and within one year after the ratification of this Treaty, the Tsung-li Yamén and the Russian Minister in Peking will jointly discuss and agree upon the duties to be paid on teas of all kinds.

ART. XVII.—As disputes have arisen with reference to the construction to be put upon Art. X. of the Treaty concluded at Peking in the year 1860, the meaning thereof is distinctly stated in this Article. The meaning of the words, "the cattle shall be sought for and returned," is that when cattle have been stolen and carried off, the cattle will, as soon as the robber is arrested, be sought for and returned; and should the cattle stolen not be found, the robber will have to pay their value as compensation. Should, however, the robber not have the means of making good the loss, the local authorities will not make it good on his behalf. The frontier authorities will in accordance with the laws of their respective countries punish severely robbers of cattle. They will also take measures for the pursuit and return of fugitive and stolen cattle; and descriptions thereof shall be communicated by them to the soldiers on the frontier and to the headmen of the country round about.

ART. XVIII.—By the Treaty concluded at Aighoun on the 16th day of May, 1858, permission is given to Chinese and Russian subjects on the Amoor, the Sangari, and the Usuri to trade with the people living on the banks of these rivers. As a clearer statement should be made as to how this may be carried out, the two Powers shall take the matter into consideration and decide thereupon.

ART. XIX.—The Articles of Treaties previously concluded between the two contracting Powers not affected by the present Treaty shall still remain in force.

ART. XX.—When assent has been given to this Treaty by the respective Powers, it shall be published for general information and obedience, and the ratifications thereof shall be exchanged at St. Petersburg in six months from the date of signature.

This treaty is executed in duplicate in the Chinese, Russian, and French languages, and is signed and sealed by the Plenipotentiaries of the respective Powers. The three versions have been compared and found to have the same meaning; and in case of dispute the French version shall rule.



## SEPARATE ARTICLE.

By Art. VI. of the Treaty now concluded by the Plenipotentiaries of the two Powers, China will complete in two years the payment to Russia of a sum of 9,000,000 roubles as an indemnity for the military expenditure incurred in holding and protecting Ili by Russian troops on behalf of China, and in satisfaction of the claims of Russian subjects, and the Plenipotentiaries have agreed that this sum shall be paid in the following manner:—

The said sum of 9,000,000 roubles, equivalent to £1,431,664. 2s. sterling shall be cleared off by six instalments. At each payment (and the expense of remitting need not be borne by China) China shall hand over to the Bank of Messrs. Baring Brothers (?) in the city of London the sum of £238,610.13.8 sterling, one payment to be made every four months, the first and last payments to be made four months and two years respectively from the ratification of the Treaty.

This separate Article differs in no respect from the terms of the Treaty now concluded, in witness whereof the respective Plenipotentiaries have hereunto set their hands and seals.—*Shanghai Courier*.

### THE SUPPLEMENTARY TREATY BETWEEN GERMANY AND CHINA.

(N.-C. Daily News.)

We publish below a copy of a translation of the supplementary treaty between Germany and China.

H. M. the Emperor of Germany, King of Prussia, &c., in the name of the German Empire, and H. M. the Emperor of China, actuated by the desire to secure the better performance of the treaty of friendship, navigation and commerce, of the 2nd September, 1861, in fulfilment of the stipulation contained in the 41st clause of this treaty, by which the High Contracting German States shall, on the expiry of 10 years, have a right to demand a revision of the treaty, have determined to conclude a supplementary Convention to this treaty. For this purpose they have nominated as their Plenipotentiaries, viz:—

H. M. the Emperor of Germany, King of Prussia, &c., his Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Minister to H. M. the Emperor of China, Max August Scipio von Brandt,

And H. M. the Emperor of China, the Ministers of the Tsung-li Yamén, the Secretary of State, Assistant Member of the Grand Secretariat and President of the Board of War, Shen Kuei-fen, and the Secretary of State and President of the Board of Finance, Ching-lien.

Who, after having communicated their powers to each other and having found the same in good and due form, have agreed to the following Articles.

## ARTICLE I.

*Chinese Concession.*—The ports of I-ch'ang in Hupeh, Wuhu in Anhui, Wenchow in Chékiang, and Pakhoi in Kuang-tung and the landing places Tatung and Anking in Anhui, Hukow in Kiangsi, Wusieh, Luchikow and Shashih in Hukuang being already opened, German vessels shall also further be permitted to stop for a while in the port of Woosung in the province of Kiangsu to embark or discharge merchandise. The necessary regulations for this purpose shall be prepared by the Taotai of Shanghai and other competent officials.

*German Concession.*—In the case of concessions made by the Chinese Government to another Government with which special joint stipulations of execution are connected, Germany, while claiming these concessions for itself and subjects, will also give its consent to the stipulations of execution combined with them. Article 40 of the treaty of 2nd September, 1861, is not affected by this stipulation and is hereby expressly confirmed. If, by virtue of the same, subjects of the Empire claim privileges, immunities or advantages which may be granted by the Chinese Government to another Government, or to the subjects of any other nation, they shall also be subjected to the stipulations of execution connected with them.

## ARTICLE II.

*Chinese Concession.*—German ships which have already paid tonnage dues in China shall be allowed to visit all the other open ports in China, as well as all non-Chinese ports without exception, without being required to pay tonnage dues again within the term of four months. German sailing vessels which lie longer than 14 days in one Chinese port shall only pay the half of the tariff rate of tonnage dues for the time beyond this period.

*German Concession.*—The Chinese Government shall also have the right to appoint Consuls to all those places in Germany to which Consuls of other Powers are admitted, and they shall enjoy the same rights and privileges as the Consuls of the most favoured nation.

## ARTICLE III.

*Chinese Concession.*—In all the open ports of China where it is considered desirable by the foreign trading community and the local circumstances appear to render it practicable, the Chinese Commissioner of Customs and the other officials concerned shall themselves take in hand the erection of entrepôts (bonded warehouses) and at the same time prepare the requisite regulations.

*German Concession.*—German vessels visiting the open ports in China must hand in a manifest containing exact statements of the quality and quantity of the wares. Errors which may have crept in it, may be corrected within 24 hours (Sundays and holidays not included.) False statements of the quantity or quality of the wares shipped will be punished by the confiscation of the wares concerned, and further by a money fine levied on the Captain, which, however, may not exceed five hundred Taels.

## ARTICLE IV.

*Chinese Concession.*—On native Chinese coal, which is exported by German merchants from the open ports, the export duty is hereby reduced to three (3) mace per ton; on coal exported from those ports where a lower duty is already established, this lower rate is still to subsist.

*German Concession.*—When any one, not in possession of the prescribed certificate, shall pursue the trade of pilot for any kind of vessels, he shall be subject to a money fine, which may not exceed one hundred Taels for each case. Regulations for the exercise of due control over sailors also be agreed to as speedily as possible.

## ARTICLE V.

*Chinese Concession.*—German ships requiring repairs in consequence of damage sustained either in port or out of it shall not have to pay tonnage dues for the time—to be fixed by the Custom House—occupied for the repairs.

*German Concession.*—Chinese-owned ships may not make use of the German flag. Neither may German ships make use of the Chinese flag.

## ARTICLE VI.

*Chinese Concession.*—In the event of German ships which have become unseaworthy being broken up in an open port in China, their materials may be sold without import duty being levied on them. However, when the materials are to be landed, a "permit to discharge" must first be obtained for them in the same way as takes place for wares.

*German Concession.*—If German subjects, without being in possession of a pass issued by the Consul and stamped by the authorised Chinese official, betake themselves to the interior for pleasure journeys, the local officials are conceded the right to send them back to the nearest German Consulate for the exercise of the necessary supervision over them. Offenders shall, besides, be subject to a fine to the extent of three hundred Taels.

## ARTICLE VII.

*Chinese Concession.*—Materials for German docks are duty free. A list of those articles which, by reason of this stipulation may be imported duty free, is to be prepared and published by the Inspector-General of Customs.

*German Concession.*—Inland passes for wares of foreign origin issued to German subjects, as well as travelling passes issued to German subjects, shall be valid only for the period of thirteen Chinese months, counting from the day of issue.

## ARTICLE VIII.

The settlement of questions concerning the exercise of justice in mixed cases, the taxation of foreign wares in the interior, the taxation of Chinese wares in the possession of foreign merchants in the interior, and the relations between foreign and Chinese officials is reserved for special negotiations, into which the respective Governments hereby declare themselves ready to enter.

## ARTICLE IX.

All the stipulations of the former treaty of the 2nd September, 1861, which are not altered by this agreement, are hereby again confirmed, as both parties expressly declare. But with those articles which are affected by the present agreement, the altered construction (wording) shall be considered as binding (ruling).

## ARTICLE X.

The present supplementary Convention shall be ratified by the respective High Authorities, and the ratification protocols shall be exchanged within one year from the day of signature in Peking. The stipulations of this agreement come into operation on the day of exchange of ratifications.

In witness whereof the Plenipotentiaries of the two High Contracting Parties to the above agreement have signed with their own hands and affixed their seals to four copies each in German and Chinese text, which have been compared and been found to agree with each other.

Done in Peking the 31st day of March, in the year of Our Lord, 1880, corresponding with the 31st day of the 2nd month of the 6th year Kuang Sü.

(Signed) M. VON BRANDT.

(Signed) SHEN KUEI-FEN.  
CHING LIEN.

### SET OF SPECIAL STIPULATIONS OF THE SUPPLEMENTARY CONVENTION.

In the interest of greater distinctness and completeness it has appeared desirable to complete the Supplementary Convention by a number of special stipulations. The following stipulations must be adhered to by the subjects of the two contracting parties in the same manner as the stipulations of the treaty itself. In witness whereof the Plenipotentiaries of both States have affixed their seals and signatures thereto.

1.—In consequence of the newly granted privileges for the port of Woosung in the Kiangsu Province, it is there permitted to German ships to receive and to discharge merchandise which is either intended for Shanghai or comes from Shanghai. The Customs Taotai in Shanghai and the other competent officials shall, for this purpose, have the right to prepare regulations for the prevention of duty defraudation and improprieties (irregularities) of all kinds, which shall be binding on the trading communities of both countries. German merchants are not allowed to build landing-places, mercantile houses or warehouses at the said place.

2.—An attempt if entrepôts (bonded warehouses) can be established in the open ports of China shall shortly be made in Shanghai. For this purpose the Commissioner of Customs at the said place and the Inspector-General of Customs shall forthwith prepare regulations appropriate to the local circumstances, and the establishment of this bonded warehouse shall then be taken in hand by the said Commissioner of Customs and colleagues.

3.—If any wares on board of a German vessel, for whose discharge a written permit of the Custom House is requisite, are not entered on the manifest, offence (mistake) of a false manifest shall thereby be held to be constituted, no matter if a certificate signed by the captain of the receipt on board of these wares is existent or not.

4.—If a German ship has become in want of repairs in consequence of damage sustained in one of the open ports in China, or out of the same, the time required for the repairs shall be taken into account for the term at the expiry of which tonnage dues have to be paid—should it appear, however, that only a pretence has been made and that the intention is to evade legal payments to Customs, the vessel in question shall be subjected to a money fine corresponding to double the amount of the tonnage dues of which it was attempted to evade payment.

5.—Vessels of all kinds belonging to Chinese subjects may not make use of the German flag. If, however, decided grounds for suspicion present themselves that this has taken place, the Chinese official concerned shall address an official communication to the German Consul about it, and should it be proved, in the course of the enquiry instituted by him, that the vessel is, in fact, not justified in flying the German flag, the vessel, as well as the wares on board, so far as they belong to Chinese merchants, shall at once be delivered to the Chinese officials for their further disposal. Should it be shown that German subjects have knowledge of the circumstance, those participating in the practice of this irregularity,

all the wares found in the vessel belonging to them, will become liable to confiscation, and they themselves to the legal penalty. If a German vessel flies the Chinese flag in an unauthorised manner, in the event of its being proved on an enquiry conducted by the Chinese officials that the vessel is, in fact, not justified in flying the Chinese flag, the vessel, as well as the wares on board, so far as they belong to German merchants, shall forthwith be surrendered to the German Consul for further disposal and punishment of the offenders. Should it be shown that German owners of wares have knowledge of the circumstance and have taken part in the practice of this irregularity, the wares belonging to them found on board the vessel will collectively become liable to confiscation on the part of the Chinese officials. Wares belonging to Chinese can at once be confiscated by the Chinese officials.

6.—If in one of the open ports in China, at the sale of the broken-up materials of a vessel which has become unseaworthy, an attempt is made to include (smuggle in) wares belonging to its cargo, these wares shall be liable to confiscation; and further, a fine shall be levied corresponding to double the amount of the import duty which would otherwise have been levied.

7.—If German subjects with foreign wares go into the interior or undertake travels in the interior of the country, the passes or certificates issued to them shall be valid only for 13 Chinese months reckoned from the date of issue, and may not be used any more after the expiry of this period. The expired passes and certificates must be returned for cancellation to the Customs official within whose official district they were issued.

Note.—If a pleasure journey is undertaken in such distant regions that a period of one year does not appear sufficient, this must be noted on the pass at the time it is issued, by reason of an agreement between the Consul and the Chinese official.

Should the return not be made, no pass will again be issued to the concerned until this is done. Should the pass be lost, no matter if it happens within the period, or after expiry of same, the concerned must forthwith place on record a truthful statement about it with the nearest Chinese official. The Chinese official concerned will then take further steps concerning the invalidation of the pass. Should the statement put on record be shown to be untrue, if the transport of wares is concerned, the wares shall be confiscated, but if a journey is concerned, the traveller shall be taken to the nearest Consul and be handed over to him for punishment.

8.—Materials for German docks enjoy the privilege of duty free importation into open ports only in so far as they are actually to be applied to the repair of vessels. The Customs official has the right to convince himself of the manner in which these materials are made use of by the evidence of officials sent to the dock for that purpose. In the case of the new building of a vessel, duty will be calculated on the materials used in it, in so far as these are included by name in the import or export tariff, at the tariff rate; on those articles not included in the tariff, at 5% *ad valorem*, and the merchant concerned will be held bound to pay this duty subsequently to the Custom House. Whoever desires to build a dock must obtain a cost-free concessionary certificate and sign a written obligation, whose contents any wording are to be settled in appropriate form by the Customs office concerned.

9.—Article 29 of the Treaty of 2nd September, 1861, shall have application to the monetary fines settled by the present Supplementary Convention. Done in Peking, the 31st March in the year of our Lord, 1890, corresponding with the 21st day of the 2nd Moon of the 6th year Kuang Su.

(Signed) M. VON BRANDT.

(Signed) SHEN KUN-FEN.  
CHING LIEN.

#### LETTER FROM THE SUB-READER CHANG CHIH-TUNG TO THE GRAND SECRETARY LI HUNG-CHANG.

You have served the State during the reigns of four Emperors, you have taken part in secret Councils, your official career has been long, and you have been favoured and exalted. When you have been accorded audiences with the two Empresses and the

Emperor, your words have been listened to and your counsels have been adopted. It is your duty, therefore, to show your loyalty by your exertions.

Military affairs and the condition of the Empire are two subjects that may be here referred to. Although it is many years since you became a Minister of State, I have not yet heard, as might have been expected, of your having "cleared and cleansed" the Imperial mind, as it is called, or of your having laid before their Majesties any admirable administrative measures. Perhaps it is that you have been willing to give in to the Imperial will, so that you might render your position secure and preserve your wife and children. If this is so, you have not fulfilled the expectations of the *literati* and people. In the time of Hien Feng you had not yet become a Minister, and you did not dare to exceed your duty by putting forward your plans. But now that you are Senior Grand Secretary dire famine rages in the various provinces, and when steps are taken to remit the land tax and adopt relief measures, the Imperial clemency does not fall upon the people, but serves to glut the lower officials. The Magistrates, instead of controlling and cherishing the people, exact more than is due, and are even worse in this respect than in former times. They fleece the people to make presents to their superiors, and thereby gain appointments to lucrative posts. The granaries and treasuries are empty whilst the pockets of the officials swell out. Papers relating to lawsuits are piled up in the Yámens, and the cruel underlings disobey the laws: they are like robbers in their treatment of the people. The army is not kept up to its proper complement, and our armaments are defective. Our military reviews are mere theatrical displays, and equestrian archery is a failure. The arrangements with regard to acting appointments are such that an officer never remains long at one post, and his underlings are sent to rob and pillage the people. A rich upper-class does not exist, and ninety per cent. of the families are poor; does not all this need to be exposed? How is it then that you are silent. But you may still shuffle the responsibility on others and say that this is not owing to the shortcomings of the Ministers, but the fault of Viceroys, Governors, Provincial Treasurers, and Judges. Was it not in times gone by the duty of the Minister equally to assist the Son of Heaven, to regulate the Yin and the Yang, and the succession of the four seasons, to keep the four borders of China in subjection, to cherish the people, to put forward the honourable and good, and reject the degenerate? Of other matters they had no knowledge. But as far as these latter duties are concerned, you have much to be ashamed of. In recent years the North West provinces have repeatedly been visited by drought, and the South East provinces have frequently suffered from floods; thunder storms have taken place in winter and continuous rains have destroyed the crops in Spring; the price of rice has gone up day by day, and the people have had neither food nor clothing. Old and young have left their homes and disappeared, disgusted with their wrongs and mourning their misfortunes, and a rebellious spirit has gradually sprung up in their breasts. How, then, can it be said that the Yin and the Yang have been regulated, or can we speak of the proper succession of the four seasons? This is one of your shortcomings.

The foreign barbarians have infested our country, and robbed us of our frontiers, they

have slaughtered and massacred our people, and they regret that they have not exterminated them. Worthless statesmen have received beautiful women at their hand and fallen into their snare. Thus was an amicable settlement secured. At this time you did not proclaim their guilt and bring them to punishment, nor did you state that the barbarians were insulting China, and that the Government ought not to give in to them. You merely followed the opinions of others and took your case for a day, thereby proclaiming our weakness and bungling the affairs of the Empire. What can be worse than this? Is this the way in which our borders are kept in subjection, and the people are cherished? This is your second shortcoming. Of the High Authorities who can bind the hearts of the people together, and who are intimately acquainted with the arts of war, who can compare with Tso, Chin, Tséng, and Liu? Of those who can cope with the unscrupulous and strike terror into villains and robbers, who can compare with Ting, Tséng, and the two Tan? They are eminent statesmen and skilful generals. If you were in accord with them, success would be the result and safety from the difficulties of the times. How is it that you differ from them in everything and prove an obstacle to affairs of moment whereby the efforts of many men are lost on the very eve of success? This is not for the benefit of the State. How, then, can you find pleasure in your present course of action? That worthless statesman Chung How was of an avaricious disposition and possessed of little ability. You were associated with him in public affairs for a number of years, and you ought to know his character well. Why did you allow him to be sent amongst the foreign barbarians as an Imperial Ambassador? Now, not only has he disgraced his name, but he has brought insult upon the Empire. Not only have we become the laughing stock of these rebel barbarians, but we have caused all foreign countries to look down upon China. If you had opposed the appointment of Chung How and insisted on his not being sent as Ambassador, we should not have been in the position in which we are placed today. Is this, then, putting forward the honourable and good and rejecting the degenerate? This is your third shortcoming. With regard to these shortcomings, as your own conscience, for you cannot rid yourself of these faults, and I am unable to hide them from you. And why? As the influence in the Grand Secretariat rests chiefly with the Manchu Members, you may be likened to a wife with two mothers-in-law in the house. Those who wish to prove their loyalty should not spare themselves, and in every matter whether important or unimportant you ought yourself to take a part. "How can he be used as a guide to a blind man who does not support him when tottering, nor raise him up when fallen? When the virtuous are made rulers and their plans are not approved, they ought to protest, and if their protest is of no avail, they ought to resign. When you were in the Han-lin college, it cannot be said that you had no reputation. From a noble you became a Grand Secretary, and it cannot be said that you had no position; you are over sixty years of age, and it cannot be said you are not ageing. As at the present time you neither act nor advise, what are you waiting for? Your plans for the Empire are plans for yourself. If you wish the people to be contented and obedient, it would be well for you to direct the



district and other magistrates to lessen the amount of the land-tax and thereby lower the price of rice. Dismiss avaricious subordinates and raise up the virtuous and the honest, who will spare and cherish the people and allow them to flourish. This would bring contentment to the Empire itself. If you do not wish the barbarians to cross our borders, assist and be in accord with their Excellencies Tao, Chun, and the others. Let them deal with the affairs of rebel barbarians. Fix no time for war; let them annoy us; do not traduce and alienate them; but adopt suitable measures for fighting them. Select tried and seasoned soldiers, concentrate them at the important points, and hold them in readiness. This is the way to bring about the expulsion of the foreigners. Do you with sincerity point out such things carefully to the two Empresses Dowager and to the Emperor? and if their Majesties listen and give their assent happiness will be the lot of the Empire. If not, pray their Majesties to allow you to go to your native place and there spend the remainder of your days in retirement. Would not your name still find a place in the Imperial Records? If you do not take my advice, I fear that in the future you will not be able to escape the reputation of having committed a great crime. It is because I am on intimate terms with your eldest son that I dare to send you this paltry communication, which I trust you will read with care.—*Shanghai Courier Translation.*

## Law Reports.

IN H. B. M.'S COURT FOR JAPAN.

Before R. T. RENNIE, Esq., Judge.

Appeal from the decision given by H. B. M. Consul at Hakodate in the case of J. HENSON v. A. P. PORTER.

Monday, June 27th, 1881.

The appeal was made on the following grounds.

1st.—That the judgment in the above cause of H. B. M. Court at Hakodate dated April 14th is against the weight of evidence.

2nd.—That the court took evidence after the case was closed, and each party had summed up.

3rd.—That the court unduly assisted the defendant.

4th.—That the court stated that it did not understand book-keeping.

The plaintiffs therefore petitioned.

1st.—That the sum of 658.71 as allowed by the lower court be allowed to stand.

2nd.—That the rest of the judgement be varied or reversed.

3rd.—That the plaintiffs may have such farther or other relief as the nature of the case may require.

Mr. Litchfield appeared for the appellant, and Mr. Kirkwood for the defendant.

Mr. Litchfield read the above appeal and a very lengthy answer filed by the defendant, in which he dealt with the accounts and supported the judgement.

Mr. Litchfield afterwards read the original appeal and answer in this case, and then the judgement against which the plaintiff appealed, the gist of which is, that the plaintiff sues for the recovery of a sum of \$658.71 being the balance of certain monies advanced by him to the defendant. Defendant acknowledges having received the sums

as set forth, but puts forward an agreement entered into on the 16th of February 1880 by which it was agreed that in consideration of Captain Porter allowing the use of lots 2, 4, and 6, and the buildings thereon, John Henson agrees to pay Captain Porter one half of the net proceeds of the firm's business on certain terms. On the termination of the agreement, defendant asked that the whole of the firm's accounts be gone through for the period of the agreement in order to ascertain what sums, if any, were due to him, and stated his belief that certain sums would be found due to him. He disputed certain items being entered against him, and even deducting these items, if the court upheld his claim, he claimed it would be found that he was a creditor and not a debtor.

The books of the firm were produced in court, and defendant objected to the item of \$2,628.80 under the heading of "House Account" being placed to the debit of the Profit and Loss, and claimed that this sum be written back and one half paid to him as there was no agreement that the mess expenses over which there was no possible check, should be charged against the firm's business of which he was to receive one half the profits. He also claimed a share of certain other accounts, and further pointed out, that all the accounts being kept in yen and dollars indiscriminately, it would be impossible to understand them without careful inspection.

After going over the account books carefully, the court found that the latter statement was true and that the accounts had been kept indiscriminately in yen and dollars, and the court found it would be impossible to arrive at a minutely correct estimate of the business, on account of the fluctuations of the kinsatsu, without making out a fresh set of books.

The accounts furnished by plaintiff were therefore taken as a basis.

The defendant's contention as to the writing back of the "House account" to the credit of "Profit and Loss" was upheld by the court, less certain allowances chargeable to trade expenses, such as wages of *banto*, boatman, and office boy, amounting to 372 yen, also an allowance for the entertainment of business visitors and sundries, equal to yen 300, say total account 2,628.88 less allowances as above, amounting to 672 equal 1,956.88 to be carried to the credit of Profit and Loss.

The plaintiff was requested during the hearing to point out any allowances chargeable to trade expenses, he declined to do so and the court does not hold itself responsible for any omissions.

Commission accounts:—The court found a sum of \$24 had been debited to this account for four cases of brandy as samples, while only one case had been sold out of a consignment of 199 cases, and no commissions received, this amount cannot be allowed and together with a sum of \$3.50 for moving said brandy, must be written back.

John Henson's account:—The court found that a sum of \$329.76 is carried to the credit of profit and loss, and to the debit of John Henson's account.

General charges:—To the debit of this account there appears a sum of \$100 for coal bags and shovels; as these goods are still on hand the sum of \$50 is carried to the credit of profit and loss, the balance of \$50 being allowed for depreciation.

Property account.—The court found a sum of 4972.22 debited to this account, a number

of entries being found to consist of rents, repairs to buildings, and coalsheds. In the agreement before mentioned, clause 1 states that the ground rent was to be paid by the firm in Captain Porter's name, and clause 3 says that repairs and additions to buildings on the lots to be at the expense of the firm or Chinese, and again in clause 6 the agreement reads "any additional buildings or permanent improvement made by the firm shall at the expiry of the agreement be taken over by Captain Porter at a valuation." And therefore the repairs, which were ordinary landlord's repairs, were to be debited to the firm, and several entries taken from the cash book and ledger amounting to 1,193.75 said items being made up of small repairs done to the buildings and ground in question, are wrongly entered to the debit of property account, and should form charges on the general trade expenses of the firm. This sum is therefore written back and debited to the profit and loss account.

Interest and Exchange.—Under this head there appears a credit balance of 5,101.28. This sum according to plaintiffs' showing is required to convert the yen balance of 11,321.61 into dollars; at the rate of 182 per cent. Evidence showed that the ruling rate of exchange was rather steady at 178 during that period and the court therefore carries the difference \$139.78 to the credit of profit and loss. Lastly court finds an amount of \$127.39 to the credit of profit and loss, half of which sum has not been credited to defendant in the account current with the petition.

*Maid Marion* commission.—Commission of this shipment is claimed by defendant on the grounds that the permission to the Custom House being applied for on the 15th of February the commission was virtually earned before the expiry of the agreement, half of which should therefore come to him. Plaintiff admits the correctness of the date of application, and the court therefore decides that one-half of the commission is due to the defendant. Court therefore finds that \$1,233.54 is due to the defendant as well as the shipment per *Maid Marion* not entered in the books.

As therefore a greater sum than the one sued for is due to the defendant, the plaintiff's petition must be dismissed with costs of court.

Mr. Litchfield said the appeal was made on the ground that the decision of the court below was wrong in law, in allowing an unliquidated claim to be admitted as a set off. He then called the attention of the court to a portion of the evidence which he read.

His Honour said he understood the appeal was only against a wrong judgement and also certain irregularities in the court's procedure, and not against the figures of the accounts.

After some discussion, Mr. Litchfield said he wished paragraphs 3 and 4 of the appeal to be struck out, and the following substituted:—That the decision of the court below is wrong in law, in that it admitted the accounts between the parties and the evidence thereof to be received under the state of the pleadings in the court below; and that it had dealt with those accounts as a subject for set-off.

Mr. Litchfield argued that the court below was in error in that the defendants claim being uncertain in its nature, and requiring investigation before the amount of it could be ascertained, was not a proper subject for a set-off. The court below in settling the issue had taken upon itself to treat the

matter as a set off. Now rule 53 of this court, recognizes a common law set-off as distinguished from equitable set-off; and provides for the dealing with a claim put forward by a defendant in the nature of an equitable set-off. The court in this case has chosen to regard this claim as a common law set-off and in that respect is therefore in error.

The only excuse for the court below entertaining the question of accounts between the parties, under the agreement put in by the defendant, would be to enable it to come to a decision upon the whole matter of dispute between all parties. This the court has not done. It has dismissed plaintiff's claim. It professes to find that a certain amount is due to the defendant, it has taken no heed of Paragraph 6 of the agreement in question, and in dealing with the accounts, under the heading of property account the court states that it leaves out of the question for the present a certain sum of \$182. This sum as appears from the entries, is money paid by the plaintiff for the private account of the defendant, and if the court was arriving at a settlement of all disputes among the parties, should have been credited to the plaintiff, against defendant.

Mr. Kirkwood objected to the amendment on the grounds that if it was allowed it should be shown that exception is taken to the evidence taken in the court below, but the amendment was allowed by his Honour.

A long discussion ensued as to how and how far the accounts should be gone in dealing with the case.

Mr. Kirkwood asked for an adjournment of a few days as he was not prepared to meet all the points raised by Mr. Litchfield. He thought the judgment of the court below ought to be gone through paragraph by paragraph.

This was granted, and the court adjourned will Wednesday the 29th, at 1.30 p.m.

Wednesday, June 29th, 1881.

The manner in which the case should be gone into was discussed, and also some other points.

Mr. Kirkwood said the defendant was wrong in not filing a counter-claim, but, as the judgment showed, he was the only one who suffered by it; and if the counter-claim had been made, the plaintiff would have lost. It was therefore strange the plaintiff should file this appeal.

Mr. Litchfield said the court was wrong in taking only that part of the agreement which was favourable to the defendant. If the court had also considered the other part it would have found the plaintiff was the creditor, as he claimed.

Mr. Kirkwood said as there was so little evidence taken in the court below on the accounts at the hearing of the case, it would be nearly impossible to reverse its judgment.

His Honour said he understood the defendant rested his defence on the agreement, and it had not been impugned by Mr. Litchfield.

Mr. Kirkwood read the first part of the judgment and said he thought it would not be necessary to go into the books.

His Honour said the court could not go into figures.

Mr. Kirkwood pointed out the importance of the part of the judgment which states that the accounts put in by plaintiff were taken as a basis. In the "House Account" the court would find that mess expenses of the plaintiff had not been allowed, which the court would doubtless

find was only fair. It could have been asked, if plaintiff's mess expenses were to be allowed, why should not the defendant's be? And the latter had not claimed his. The court below had allowed a very liberal amount for the entertainment of business visitors, which was always a needful expense in dealing with Japanese. The next important point of the judgment states that the court had been left quite alone in making out the "House Account" and the others, the plaintiff refusing to give any aid, in proof of which Mr. Kirkwood read the portion of the lower court's proceedings in which the plaintiff distinctly refused to give any assistance in the matter. Mr. Kirkwood cited in upholding the judgment on the "House Account" Lindsey Vol. I. Page 778 as to the usual allowance for the expenses of partners of firms.

His Honour said it was quite clear that partners were not entitled to their mess expenses.

Mr. Litchfield said that they were certainly not entitled by law, but the question in the present case was, whether the plaintiff and defendant could be considered as partners?

His Honour said the court below was quite right in only allowing trade expenses to be charged, and it was right in writing back the mess expenses.

Mr. Kirkwood read the commission accounts. He thought the court was right in not allowing the plaintiff to charge for four cases of brandy said to be used as samples when the consignment of which these were samples, had not yet been sold, and on which the plaintiff only would reap a profit. John Henson's account was also of some importance in showing the intention of plaintiff.

Mr. Litchfield said there was an explanation to this account.

The "General Charges" and "Property" accounts were next read.

Mr. Kirkwood said the items mentioned in the last account for work done to a lot since sold had been left out of the judgment.

Mr. Litchfield said the sums in question had been paid by the plaintiff for the defendant, and ought to have been placed to the former's credit, but had been entirely left out.

Mr. Kirkwood held that the reasons given by the court below, were quite sufficient to support the judgment on the property account.

His Honour said Mr. Litchfield did not object to the exchange account.

Mr. Kirkwood said the defendant laid claim to the half of yen 11,321.61 which was represented as being the gross earnings of the firm. The plaintiff explained that this sum was only a fictitious amount, to aid in balancing the other accounts. In the Interest and Exchange account the court had allowed plaintiff 2% to make up for any difference there might have existed between the rates of kinsatsu ruling in the Yokohama bourse and that at Hakodate.

Mr. Kirkwood then finished reading the judgment.

His Honour said he had no doubt that the "House Account" was correct in principle, and he thought the court was right in writing back the "Mess Account" and allowing certain sums for business expenses. Of course he could not say whether the sums were actually correct or not. The "Property Account" was a little more difficult to deal with.

Mr. Kirkwood said that as the plaintiff had refused to give any information on the "House" or "Property" accounts, and as he was the only one who knew about these, he must take the responsibility of any error in figures.

Mr. Litchfield argued that the court below was wrong in dismissing the claim on the ground that the plaintiff was indebted to defendant to a sum greater or less. How could the court arrive at such a result when it did not go into all the accounts? It must appear to the court that the judgment was in favour of the defendant, in that the court had not taken notice of the latter part of the agreement, and had given judgment on the first part, which was favourable to the defendant. If it had examined the whole of the agreement it would have been found that the plaintiff was the creditor.

His Honour said it was open to the plaintiff to have asked the court below for an adjournment in order to have time to make out his accounts more correctly, and in not doing so, had in his Honour's opinion, tried to snatch a verdict from the court below.

Mr. Litchfield asked whether the plaintiff was to be kept out of pocket of a sum of money which he had paid for defendant because he (plaintiff) had not had time to make out his accounts by a certain day. The question is whether the court was right in considering the plaintiff and defendant as partners. In fact the defendant had only let his houses to the plaintiff on certain terms. All the improvements, repairs &c. made to the premises have been made by the plaintiff, and all the work done by the firm was done by the plaintiff. And yet the court finds that \$80 per month could only be considered as having been expended for ordinary landlord's repairs.

Mr. Kirkwood said the judgment stated that the repairs only were ordinary landlord's repairs, but not the additions.

His Honour asked how plaintiff's case would stand if the "Property Account" were left out of the question.

Mr. Litchfield said a balance in plaintiff's favour would still be found. Plaintiff may not have placed some sums to defendant's credit, but that was by mistake. If the judgment of the court below be upheld, the plaintiff would be excluded from giving evidence as to whether or not the amounts now allowed by the court were rightly or wrongly taken to be *res judicator*. The judgment affecting the account between the parties as well as the \$658 claimed by plaintiff.

Saturday, July 2nd, 1881.

#### JUDGMENT.

Judgment in this case was to-day given against the appellant with costs.

In the judgment, his Honour dwelt on the conduct of the plaintiff in the court below, which his Honour considered to have been disrespectful, in as much as he refused to produce accounts when requested to do so. If the plaintiff suffered by the judgment of the court below it was in a great measure his own fault, and the court below might have treated the case more summarily than it did. His Honour did not agree with the appellant's counsel as to the set-off; the court's rules of procedure 53 and 55 relating to set-off and counter-claims, being permissive and not mandatory.

Tuesday, June 28th, 1881.

**YENOMOTO YOSOBET vs. CAPTAIN OF THE Ordovic.**

Plaintiff asked for another adjournment as his most important witness had not come back in the vessel.

Mr. Litchfield said he had made enquiries about the vessel plaintiff said his witness was in, and found it was on the north-west coast, and would not return for some three months.

Plaintiff when asked how long he wished the case to be adjourned said till his witness came back.

His honour finally postponed it till Wednesday 13th July at 10 a.m.

A comet has made its appearance in our skies, and has been seen by several persons on land as well as from ships. A gentleman who saw it on Saturday morning gives us the following description:—"I saw the comet at 4 a.m., about ten or twelve degrees above the horizon, to the north-east, and it appeared to be travelling in a north-easterly direction. The nucleus was larger than a star of the first magnitude, but not so brilliant, being of a dull orange colour; the tail was short and broad, the whole having the appearance of a very bright star thinly veiled in mist. The sky at the time was very bright and clear, and the comet remained visible until daylight, when it was lost to view. It was again visible this (Sunday) morning at 4.15 a.m. for a few minutes. Its position was, however, more to the north than yesterday (27th ultimo), being about north-east by north; neither could it be seen so well, as it was hidden by a large bank of clouds and was only visible from time to time as they broke up. It finally disappeared at 4.50, hidden by a mass of black cloud."—*Hongkong Daily Press.*

## Shipping.

### ARRIVALS.

June 25, Jap. str. *Kokonoye-Maru*, Dithlefsen, 1,133, from Hakodate, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 June 28, Brit. str. *Sarpedon*, J. Rea, 1,592, from London via Hongkong, General, to Butterfield & Swire.  
 June 30, Jap. str. *Tokio-Maru*, Swain, 2,119, from Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 June 30, Ger. barq. *Marie*, Clausen, 464, from Antwerp, Dec. 7th, via Dover, Feb. 12th, General, to Carl Rohde.  
 June 30, Brit. barq. *Philip Nelson*, Furze, 524, from Antwerp, Nov. 9th, General, to Wilkin & Robison.  
 July 1, Brit. ship *Frank Corvill*, Chapman, 1,486, from Cardiff, Jan. 31st, 2,236 tons Coals, to M. M. Co.  
 July 1, Brit. barq. *E. M. Young*, McMichen, 345, from Nagasaki, Coals, to John Middleton.  
 July 2, H. B. M. despatch vessel *Vigilant*, 50 men, 2-guns, 1,815 H.P., Lieut.-Comd. Chas. Lindsay, bearing the flag of Vice-Admiral Wille, O. B., from Kobe.  
 July 2, Jap. str. *Wakanoura-Maru*, Christensen, 1,300, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 July 2, Brit. str. *Sunda*, Reeves, 1,704, from Hongkong via Nagasaki, Mails and General, to P. & O. Co.  
 July 2, Ger. schr. *Auguste Reimers*, Thomsen, 245, from Takao, June 18th, Sugar, to Chinese.  
 July 2, Brit. barq. *Zodiac*, Baike, 376, from Takao, June 20th, Sugar, to E. B. Watson.  
 July 4, Brit. str. *Belgie*, Davison, 2,627, from San Francisco, Mails and General, to O. & O. Co.  
 July 4, Brit. str. *Venice*, Beard, 1,567, from Kobe, Tea and General, to Jardine, Matheson & Co.  
 July 4, Jap. str. *Tokai-Maru*, Hogg, 1,042, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 July 5, Am. frigate *Richmond*, Capt. Benham, 2,000, 14-guns, 800 H.P., from Kobe.

July 5, Am. str. *City of Tokio*, Cobb, 5,050, from Hongkong, Mails and General to P. M. Co.  
 July 5, Jap. str. *Kokonoye-Maru*, Dithlefsen, 1,133, from Hakodate, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 July 6, Jap. str. *Niigata-Maru*, Wynn, 1,603, from Hongkong via Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 July 7, Jap. str. *Nagoya-Maru*, Walker, 1,914, from Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 July 8, Jap. str. *Takachiho-Maru*, Nye, 1,406, from the North, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.

### DEPARTURES.

June 25, Brit. str. *Oceanic*, Metcalfe, 3,700, for San Francisco, Mails and General, despatched by O. & O. Co.  
 June 25, Jap. str. *Takasago-Maru*, Young, 1,230, for Hongkong via Kobe, Mail and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 June 25, Brit. str. *Malacca*, Weighell, 1,709, for Hongkong via Nagasaki, Mail and General, despatched by P. & O. Co.  
 June 27, Am. ship, *Paul Revere*, J. Mullin, 1,560, for Kobe, Kerosene and General, despatched by C. & J. Trading Co.  
 June 27, Jap. barq. *Taihei-Maru*, Black, 492, for Nagasaki, Ballast, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 June 27, Russ. corvette *Asia*, Capt. Anasoff, 2,500 tons, 11-guns, 230 men, for San Francisco.  
 June 27, Jap. str. *Tsuruga-Maru*, Steadman, 461, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 June 28, French gun-bout *Adonis*, Capt. Caillard, 4-guns, 137 tons, for Hakodate.  
 June 28, French corvette *Themis*, Capt. Alguier, 3,800 tons, 18-guns, 800 H.P., for Hakodate.  
 June 28, Jap. str. *Tokai-Maru*, Hogg, 1,042, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 June 28, Jap. str. *Kokonoye-Maru*, Dithlefsen, 1,132, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 June 29, Jap. str. *Hiroshima-Maru*, Haswell, 1,870, for Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 June 30, Ger. burqueentine *Hecht*, Ploetz, 358, for Newchwang, Ballast, despatched by Chinese.  
 July 2, Frch. str. *Menzaleh*, Homery, 1,273, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by M. M. Co.  
 July 4, Brit. str. *Sarpedon*, Rea, 1,592, for Kobe, General, despatched by Butterfield & Swire.  
 July 4, Jap. str. *Wakanoura-Maru*, Christensen, 1,300, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 July 4, Jap. str. *Suminoye-Maru*, Frahm, 853, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 July 4, Brit. barq. *Malacca*, Hay, 593, for Kobe, General, despatched by M. Raspe.  
 July 4, Jap. str. *Toyoshima-Maru*, Hubbard, 598, for Shanghai, Ballast, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 July 5, Brit. str. *Belgie*, Davison, 2,627, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by O. & O. Co.  
 July 6, Jap. str. *Tokio-Maru*, Swain, 2,119, for Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 July 8, Ger. schr. *Balthasar*, Fulda, 275, for Hakodate, Coals, despatched by P. Bohm.

### PASSENGERS.

Per Jap. str. *Kokonoye-Maru*, from Hakodate:—3 Sisters of Mercy (French) Capt. Miller, Capt. Trask; and 60 Japanese in steerage.  
 Per Brit. str. *Oceanic*, for San Francisco:—Messrs. Henry Saltan, Chas. Cromie, Wm. White, Two Master Walker, Revd. and Mrs. J. H. Pyke, 2 children and infant, Revd. and Mrs. Wm. G. Butler, child and infant, Mr. Carl Schintzler, Master Wilson, Miss N. M. Youngman, Mr. Wm. Barr, Mr. Wm. Moore, Mr. Angus, Miss E. G. Eddy, Mr. A. C. Watts, Mr. Arthur W. Thomson, Mr. S. Simura, Prof. T. O. Mendenhall, wife and child, General E. W. Donovan and wife, Captain E. Barton, Messrs. D. Gillies, A. L. Young, and Geo. Austin, Mrs. Warrie, Maid in cabin; 7 Europeans and 1103 Chinese in steerage. For Liverpool: General and Mrs. Warre, Messrs. C. E. Dent and John A. Barsdio. For Paris: Capt. Novossilsky.  
 Per Jap. str. *Takasago-Maru*, for Hongkong via Kobe:—Major Taylor, Mrs. Fitzgerald, and 2 children, Messrs. E. O. Kirby, J. A. Masseu, F. von Fischer, C. H. Haswell, E. T. Fenelossa, H. M. Paul, L. P. Trudel, W. Cunliffe and Capt. Bayly in cab n.

Per Brit. str. *Malacca*, for Hongkong via Nagasaki:—Mr. F. W. Molland in cabin; and 3 Chinese and 1 European in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Kokonoye-Maru*, for Hakodate:—Mrs. Bidderbjelke, Mrs. Draper and infant, Miss Vale, and 1 Japanese in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Hiroshima-Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Mr. W. Macgregor, Mr. R. M. Davison, Mr. L. S. Fobes, and 32 Japanese in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Tokio-Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Tyng, and child, Mrs. Beukema and 2 children, Dr. Gulick, Messrs. Blackmore, Orley, Nutter, Kostiloff, and 16 Japanese in cabin; 1 European, 4 Chinese and 380 Japanese in steerage. For San Francisco: Rev. Du Bose, wife and 3 children, Mr. Olarovsky and son in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Wakanoura-Maru*, from Kobe:—50 Japanese in steerage.

Per Brit. str. *Sunda*, from Hongkong via Nagasaki:—Mr. Raimond Lyard in cabin; and 18 Chinese on deck.

Per Frch. str. *Menzaleh*, for Hongkong:—Mr. and Mrs. A. Leland, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Grey, Messrs. J. Naudin, J. E. Gould, F. E. Whitney, K. W. Atkinson, Nicholl Ganiret, O. Chapelle, C. Slavinsky and 15 French Marines.

Per Brit. str. *Belgie*, from San Francisco:—Messrs. Kennedy de Piotrowski, Luis E. Degener, A. B. French, R. Yizoye and wife, Lee Kang and wife in cabin; and 55 Chinese in steerage.

Per Brit. str. *Sarpedon*, for Port Sail:—Mr. A. Vivanti in cabin. For Kobe: Mr. de Ryke in cabin; and 68 Japanese in steerage.

Per Brit. str. *Venice*, from Kobe:—30 Japanese.

Per Am. str. *City of Tokio*, from Hongkong:—Messrs. T. Tokuda and servant, F. E. Foster, and T. Akiyama in cabin. For San Francisco: Mr. W. L. Scruggs, Mrs. Dr. Carrow and infant, Mrs. T. Nichols and daughter, Mr. W. H. Day, Capt. J. Kenny in cabin; and 1,038 Chinese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Tokai-Maru*, from Kobe:—Captain Carter in cabin; and 80 Japanese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Kokonoye-Maru*, from Hakodate:—Mrs. Dithlefsen and child in cabin; and 80 Japanese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Niigata-Maru*, from Hongkong via Kobe:—Mrs. Kennedy and 2 children, 6 Japanese in cabin; and 52 Japanese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Tokio-Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—His Excellency Iwakura Tomomi, Messrs. Iwakura Tsuneko, G. Orley, J. Blackmore, J. Vidal, H. J. Black, Chan Sing, G. Adloff, Secto, Figueroa, G. M. Meacham, and 11 Japanese in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Nagoya-Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Dumarez and 3 children, Mrs. Barrows, Miss Dudley, Revd. A. B. Morris, Revd. J. McKin, Dr. Simmons, Dr. Laning, Messrs. F. von Fischer, J. Colomb, J. Reynaud, Gowland, B. Munster, H. M. Paul, Fenelossa, Lavronshire, Wilhelm and 6 Japanese in cabin; and 2 Europeans and 171 Japanese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Takachiho-Maru*, from Hakodate:—3 Japanese in steerage.

### REPORTS.

The English steamer *Belgie*, reports:—Sailed from San Francisco on June 11th at 3 10 p.m. Encountered moderate variable weather throughout the voyage. Arrived at Yokohama on July 4th at 6.31 a.m. Time 21 days, 21 hours, and 53 minutes.

The American steamer *City of Tokio* reports:—Sailed from Hongkong June 29th at 3.30 p.m. To Turnabout had fresh N.E. and head sea. July 1st fresh gale from S.E.; thence to Oosima fresh S.W. and squally, and thence to Yokohama light West winds. Arriving July 5th at 6.03 a.m. Time 5 days, 12 hours and 37 min.

# FORD & Co.

## GENERAL COMMISSION MERCHANTS,

AND

## Forwarding Agents.

### No. 5, WATER STREET.

Yokohama, April 15th, 1881.

tf.



## COMMERCIAL CIRCULAR.

YOKOHAMA, JULY 8TH, 1881.

Showing Duties payable, Prices realized, Quotations, and Estimated Sales of Goods in Yokohama, for the period of 14 days from 23rd June 1881, to the 6th July 1881, inclusive.

## IMPORTS.

During the past fourteen days a marked decrease in sales of cotton yarn is noticeable. This occurred in the first week when inquiry for imports was limited almost entirely to shirtings, victoria lawn, chints, and turkey red. At the end of last month a few buyers of yarn came forward with the result shown. Prices have declined all round though the nominal quotations show little if any change in the absence of transactions. The market is weak with lessened demand. Exchange for currency comparatively steady but uncertain.

**YARNS.**—Sales reported reach 2,482 Bales against 6,243 Bales for the preceding period; making a total for the year to date of 30,561 Bales—viz.: 17,768 Bales 16/24; 6,182 Bales 28/32; 1,012 Bales 38/42; 1,380 Bales doubled, and 4,219 Bales Indian qualities.

**SUGAR.**—White Sugar is weaker for best, and stronger for lower qualities. Brown has advanced in the face of increased stock.

**KEROSENE.**—Tendency of the market steady: sales in the interval large, but mostly at former quotation.

100 Dollars Mexican = 311 Silver Boos.

133 lbs. = 1 Picul.

133 lbs. = 1 Picul.				DUTY PAID.		ESTIMATED SALES. (From 23rd June to 6th July.)	
				DUTY CALCULATED IN MEXICAN DOLLARS.	PRICES AT WHICH SALES HAVE BEEN MADE.	NOMINAL QUOTATIONS.	
COTTON PIECE GOODS.							
Drills, American, 40 yds. 30 in. 14 lbs. ...	0.0241	¥ 10 yds.	\$	¥ pc.	\$2.55 @ 3.50	5,900	pieces.
Prints, assorted, 24 " 30 " ...	0.0241	" "	1.70 @ 2.30	" "	1.00 @ 2.75	"	"
Satins (cotton) ...	0.0643	" "		¥ yd.	0.11½ @ 0.12	"	"
Shirtings, Grey, 38½ yds. 39 in. 7 lbs. ...	0.0281	" "		¥ pc.	1.40 @ 1.90	8,900	"
" " 38½ " 39 " 8½ " ...	0.0281	" "	2.00 @ 2.30	" "	1.75 @ 2.35	18,250	"
" " 38½ " 45 " 9 " ...	0.0321	" "	2.14 @ 2.45	" "	2.12 @ 2.70	"	"
T. Cloth, 32 in. 6 lbs. ...	0.0241	" "		" "	1.20 @ 1.50	"	"
" " 7 " ...		" "		" "	1.55 @ 1.75	"	"
Turkey Reds, 24 yds. 30 in. 1 lb. 12 oz. ...		" "	1.45	" "		1,000	"
" " 24 " 30 " 2 " @ 2 lb. 2½ oz. ...		" "	1.50 @ 1.54	" "		4,000	"
" " 24 " 30 " 2 " 8/14 oz. ...	0.2041	" "		" "	1.65 @ 2.00	"	"
" " 24 " 30 " — @ 3 lbs. ...		" "	1.90	" "	1.60 @ 2.20	500	"
Velvets (black) 35 " 22 " ...	0.0643	" "	7.00	" "	6.50 @ 9.00	300	"
Victoria Lawns, 12 " 42 " ...	0.0321	" "	0.62 @ 0.70	" "	0.70 @ 0.98	10,000	"
Cotton Italians, 35 " 32 " ...	0.0643	" "		¥ yd.	0.10 @ 0.15	"	"
COTTON YARN.							
Nos. 16 @ 24 reversed ...			30.75	¥ pc.		25	bales
" 16 @ 24 ...			20.00 @ 32.25	" "		1,700	"
" 28 @ 32 ...			32.50 @ 35.25	" "		265	"
" 38 @ 42 ...			38.75 @ 40.60	" "		85	"
" 32 doubled ...				" "			"
" 42 " ...				" "			"
" 60 " ...	1.6077	¥ picul.		" "			"
" 100 " ...				" "			"
Indian No. 10 ...				" "			"
" " 12 ...			28.00	" "		18	"
" " 14 ...			28.75 @ 29.00	" "		77	"
" " 16 ...			28.50 @ 29.65	" "		312	"
" " 20 ...				" "			"
WOOLLENS AND MIXTURES.							
Alpaca, 40 yds. 32 in. ...	0.0965	¥ 10 yds.		¥ pc.	\$5.50 @ \$7.00		
Blankets, assorted ...	1.6077	¥ picul.	0.33	¥ lb.		1,000	Black
" " 6 lbs. ...				" "			
" " 5 lbs. ...	0.0965	¥ 10 yds.		¥ yd.	0.80 @ 1.50		
Cloth, all wool, 54 @ 64 " ...				" "	0.30 @ 0.60		
" Pilots, 54 @ 64 " ...				" "	0.60 @ 0.70		
" Presidents, 54 @ 64 " ...	0.3215	under 55 in. to		" "	0.35 @ 0.60		
" Union, 54 @ 56 " ...	0.4019	exceeding 55 in.		" "	0.25 @ 0.40		
Italian Cloth, 32 in. ...		in width ¥ 10 yds.		" "	0.16½ @ 0.19½	2,000	
Mousselines de Laine (plain & stripes), 24 yds. 31 in. ...	0.0965	¥ 10 yds.	0.15½ @ 0.16	" "	0.25 @ 0.40		
" " (figured) ...	0.0965	" "		" "			
SUGAR.							
White, Jimpah, No. 1 ...			\$7.50 @ 7.80				
" Khibpah, " 2 ...			6.80 @ 7.30				
" Kokfah, " 3 ...	0.3215	¥ picul.	6.30 @ 6.60				Stock 11,000 piculs.
" Kungfun, " 4 ...			5.50 @ 6.10				
" Gnihpah, " 5 ...			4.70 @ 5.20				
Brown, Formosa, bags ...	new		4.00 @ 4.27½				New Stock 70,000 piculs.
" Amoy ...	old	0.1236	3.65 @ 3.80				Old " 85,000 "
METALS &c.							
Iron, Flat and Round ...	0.0965	¥ picul.		¥ pcl.	\$2.50 @ \$2.80		
" Assorted Nail-rods, (assorted) ...	0.0965	" "		" "	2.30 @ 3.05		
" Pig ...	0.0432	" "		" "	1.40 @ 1.80		
Lead, Pig ...	0.2072	" "		" "	5.80 @ 6.00		
Quicksilver ...	1.9292	" "		" "			
Steel, Swedish ...	0.1930	" "		" "	3.80 @ 4.55		
Tin Plates ...	0.2251	¥ 120 lbs.		¥ box	4.80 @ 5.00		
Kerosene Oil ...	5 %	ad valorem.		¥ case	1.82½ @ 1.87½		Stock 335,000 cases.
Raw Cotton ...	0.4019	¥ picul.		¥ pcl.	10.00 @ 15.00		No stock.

## STAPLE EXPORTS.

**SILK.**—For some days after the issue of our last report of 24th June, very little business was done; news of a considerable rise in Shanghai having reached here. The Japanese dealers were under the impression that an advance of at least \$100 would be paid here and they consequently asked up to \$650 for Maibashi and \$600 for Hatchoji Hanks, without any business resulting. Latterly, however, they have come down considerably, small purchases being effected at about \$10 below our quotations; but the stock of new silk being very small (about 50 to 60 shipping bales in all) and several buyers very anxious to get silk rates have advanced, and at the close it would be very difficult to buy Hanks even at the advanced rates. A few bales of new filatures have been sold at quotations and some old Hamatskis have found buyers are arrival. Otherwise very little has been done an account of want of desirable stock.

Settlements are Hanks	...	...	...	...	...	...	120 Bales.
" Filatures and Re-reeled Maibashi	...	...	...	...	...	...	30 "
" Oshiu and Sendai	...	...	...	...	...	...	50 "
" Kakedas	...	...	...	...	...	...	50 "
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	200 Bales.
<b>TOTAL EXPORT FOR SEASON.</b>							
London	...	...	...	...	...	...	1879-80.
France and Italy	...	...	...	...	...	...	1880-81
United States	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,481 Bales.
	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,432 "
	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,376 "
	...	...	...	...	...	...	17,897 Bales.
	...	...	...	...	...	...	22,339 Bales.

**TEA.**—We reported in the last issue an active business in the Tea Market and settlements mounting up to a large total for current season. This state of affairs remains much the same though native merchants to effect sales have had to concede some \$2 per picul on grades ranging from Good Medium downwards. Settlements for the interval amount to piculs 15,000 and arrivals have apparently been light, but no reliance can be placed on native returns and it is very possible that a large amount of leaf has been kept back in stock in Tokio.

Some fair amount of second crop musters have been shown, but native merchants seem to be withholding most of the really desirable parcels from the market, in consequence of the weak tone prevalent. In this they make a great mistake as early in August we may expect to hear the result of the first arrivals via Suez Canal; and as two or even three of the canal steamers may be expected to arrive almost simultaneously, we anticipate a heavy decline will be reported on the New York market which will naturally react on this, and there seems a fair probability of good medium tea being forced down to \$18 @ \$19 per picul in the month of August. Our settlements for the port and Kobe to date amount to 126,620 piculs, against same date last season 120,540 piculs.

DESCRIPTION.	PRICES PER PICUL.	REMARKS.
<b>SILK:—</b>		
Mayebashi; 1½ @ 2 Hanks	\$ — to — per picul.	
" 2	— to —	
" 2½	560 to 575	
" 3 and lower	510 to 540	
Kakedas; Good	610 to 620	Old silk.
Filatures; Best	700 to —	New "
" Good	670 to 680	
Hamatski	500 to 520	Old "
Sendai and Oshiu	— to —	
<b>TEA:—</b>		
Common	\$13.00 and under.	
Good Common	\$14.00 to \$16.00	
Medium	\$18.00 to \$21.00	
Good Medium	\$22.00 to \$25.00	
Fine	\$26.00 to \$30.00	
Finest	\$32.00 to \$35.00	
Choice	\$36.00 and upwards.	
		Weak for lower grades, but little or no alteration at present in the better classes.

## EXCHANGE.

A sudden rise of over 1½ per cent. in silver, which went up to 52½, caused rates to advance considerably. Some £25,000 of bank paper was settled at 3/10 for four months. Rates close weaker, however, silver having declined again to 52½. Transactions in private paper have been comparatively small.

ON LONDON.—Bank	4 months' sight	3s. 9½d.
" do.	Sight	3s. 9d.
" Credits	6 months' sight	3s. 9½d.
" do.	do.	3s. 9½d.
" PARIS.—Bank	Sight	4.73
" Credits	6 months' sight	4.85½
" SHANGHAI.—Bank	Sight	72½
" Private	10 days' sight	73
ON HONGKONG.—Bank	Sight	½ % disc.
" Private	10 days' sight	½ " "
" SAN FRANCISCO.—Bank	Sight	91½
" Private	30 days' sight	92½
" NEW YORK.—Bank	Sight	91
" Private	30 days' sight	92

Kinsatsn, 162½ per \$100

# THE JAPAN GAZETTE,

A FORTNIGHTLY SUMMARY OF THE

POLITICAL, COMMERCIAL, LITERARY, AND SOCIAL EVENTS OF JAPAN.

VOL. XXVIII. No. 2.

YOKOHAMA, WEDNESDAY, JULY 27, 1881.

PRICE \$12 PER ANNUM.

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## BIRTHS.

On the 16th July, at No. 81, Yokohama, the wife of B. ROSE, of a son.  
On the 18th July, at No. 66, Bluff, Yokohama, the wife of G. W. HILL, Esq., of a son.

## DEATHS.

At Kobe, July 18th, Mr. JOHN GRIGOR, of Yokohama, aged 41 years.  
AMERICAN.—On Sunday evening, July 24th, of Meningitis, GEORGE ELY, son of Rev. Jas. L. and E. E. AMERICAN, aged one year and twenty two days.

## Summary.

OUR last issue was dated July 6th for transmission per P. M. S. S. *City of Tokio* via San Francisco. The following mails have since been received:—

M.M.S. *Volga*, Marseilles, May 28, arr. i. July 9  
P.M.S. *City of Peking*, S. F. Co, June 23, " " 11  
P. & O.S. *Malacca*, London, " 4, " " 16  
M.M.S. *Mensaleh*, Marseilles " 11, " " 22  
O. & O. S. *Gaelic*, S. F. Co, July 7, " " 26

and the following have been despatched:—

P.M.S. *City of Tokio*, San Francisco.....July 9  
M.M.S. *Tanais*, Marseilles....." 17

THE northern tour of his majesty the Mikado will be commenced on the 30th instant; all preparations being, we believe, complete. These imperial visits are said to be very gratifying to the people, and they undoubtedly go far to improve the personal popularity of a highly popular sovereign. The journey will probably occupy about eighty days; and his Majesty will not return to Tokio until the early part of October. The cost of the tour is estimated at 250,000 yen.

The absence of the Mikado during the period of the visit of the flying squadron with the sons of the Prince of Wales on board will deprive the event of the importance it would otherwise have had. The government are, however, resolved to offer a suitable reception; and Prince Taruhito, father of Prince Arisugawa, a member of the imperial family, has been deputed to represent the Mikado. The generous hospitality of Japan is too well known to permit us to doubt the excellency of their intentions, the full display of which is rendered difficult if not impossible owing to the unavoidable absence of the Mikado.

A NEW code of criminal law and procedure is nearly completed, and some of its provisions are already known though it will not come into force before January 1st, 1882, the date notified by the prime minister. Among the most important changes are the concession to prisoners of counsel for the defence; and the increase, in cases of importance, of the number of judges up to a full bench of five. Trial by jury is not, however, granted, on the ground that the people are not yet sufficiently educated to enjoy that privilege. Japan has been, for some years past, engaged in efforts to procure the abrogation of the treaty condition precluding Japanese jurisdiction over foreigners; and when her claim to exercise this power is considered due weight must be given to the declaration of her government, made in 1881, that the people are not even fit to sit as jurors.

A LETTER on the Paper Currency of Japan published in *The Economist* of April 23rd, has evoked some criticism from the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* of so interesting a character that we publish a full translation.

CERTAIN silk dealers have formed a species of combination to enforce rules upon sellers and purchasers of silk, similar, though more stringent, to those framed by the Kioto Aratame Kaisho and which led to the abolition of that institution by government notification in 1873. Japanese merchants and brokers have been permitted to have their way for so long a time that their bearing towards foreigners now approaches insolent dictation. The spirit of the treaties of commerce is entirely ignored; even the letter is disregarded; and it is fast becoming evident that if foreign residence and trade are to continue, a better understanding with the government to ensure the observance of the treaty condition providing for free commercial intercourse between foreigners and the people, now thwarted by cliques and combinations of a more or less official seeming, must be arrived at. The initiative has been taken by the foreign silk shippers, who have addressed a memorial to the Corps Diplomatique praying for an investigation into the formation of the new silk combination.

THE correspondence in the *Pall Mall Gazette* and *Times* in connection with the action of Sir Harry Parkes in Japan, excites a feeling of intense indignation here among those residents who have followed with care the diplomatic career of Sir Harry Parkes since his first arrival in this country. Here, where the ministers Sir Harry Parkes has had to deal with are better known and understood than in any other part of the world; where the tactics of such visitors as Sir E. J. Reed, Sir John Pope Hennessy, and others are thoroughly understood; and where the person named House carried on for four years his virulent attacks upon England and her diplomatic representative, there is a feeling of deep regret that Sir Harry Parkes should have stooped to notice a series of libels which emanated from an American hired for the purpose of writing them, while some official or officials subscribed for the papers containing them and despatched them to all parts of the world. Mr. Lowder, the only gentleman Mr. House ventured to name in support of the charges preferred against Sir Harry Parkes, has published a most emphatic disclaimer of any knowledge of the kind referred to. This letter will be found on page 61.

THE head office in the East of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, which has been established here for thirteen years, is to be transferred to Hongkong. This movement is inexplicable, as this station is the chief depot of the line.

MR. J. J. VAN DER POT, the newly appointed minister resident for the Netherlands in Japan, arrived here on the 21st instant.

MR. RUSSELL ROBERTSON, H.B.M. consul at this port, has returned after a long vacation. During the absence of Mr. Rennie, Mr. Robertson will take the position of acting judge.



## Leading Articles.

### THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND THE CHEFOO CONVENTION.

THE non-ratification of the Chefoo convention has been for the last four years made a subject of reproach both here and at home to English honour and good-faith. It was said that we had accepted the benefits accruing to us under that instrument, while refusing or delaying to give China the *quid pro quo*, and it must be confessed the matter did not present a pleasant appearance to Englishmen who were not behind the scenes or acquainted with the arcana of diplomacy. We saw consular and trading establishments quietly erected at the ports which the Chinese had agreed to open under the agreement; we saw that the advantages, such as they were, to be derived from commerce at these places were at our disposal; and yet we knew that the concessions in return for which the Chinese countries on our good faith, were believed to have opened these ports, were not granted to them. We heard occasionally of difficulties made by the government of India, and of correspondence between India and foreign offices; but what was plain to all of us was that China had readily and faithfully fulfilled her part of the contract, while we had not fulfilled ours.

The latest parliamentary paper published on the subject, together with the statements of Lord HARTINGTON in the House of Commons, will, however, throw some light on the negotiations. In his first despatch Sir THOMAS WADE commences by stating his desire to protect Her Majesty's government against the charge of acting otherwise than fairly towards the government of China. By the Chefoo convention, he says, the Chinese agreed to open four ports and six places of call on the Yang-tze, within six months of the imperial decree approving the convention. The English minister, on his part, undertook to move the British government to allow the area within which exemption from *li-kin* on foreign goods could be claimed to be confined to the treaty settlements, and to sanction the collection of this *li-kin* on opium at the same time as the duties by the foreign inspectorate of customs. The difficulties in the way of consenting to the first of these were very great, because the concurrence of all the other treaty powers was necessary. All these powers, England included, had for years protested against the levy of *li-kin* between the port of entry and the transit duty barriers, as an infraction of the treaty; and the sanction by any single power of a limitation of the area within which its imports should be exempt from this tax would avail China nothing unless every power agreed to it. Hence, when signing the convention, Sir THOMAS says,—"I exacted a promise that all the treaty powers should be appealed to by the Tsung-li Yamén, and that the port area should be defined by the Chinese and foreign authorities acting together. The Yamén did accordingly appeal to the representatives of the treaty powers." Up to the present date, however, no arrangement has been found, satisfactory to all parties, although, according to Lord HARTINGTON, there now seems a fair prospect of overcoming the difficulty with respect to the collection of the *li-kin* and duty on opium together; the chief obstacle

seems to have been the variety of the rates of *li-kin* in the different provinces. The British minister proposed to recommend the government of India to agree to a uniform rate of 40 taels per picul, to be secured to the Chinese government, not only on the opium brought into the treaty ports, but on all that is deposited at Hongkong in excess of a certain stated quantity, that should be set apart, either for consumption in the colony, or for exportation thence to Australia, California, or other places, with which the inland revenue of China has no concern. The advantage to the revenue of China by the adoption of this method is calculated at a million taels; and of course there would be no room for smuggling.

The following extract shows the manner in which the *li-kin* was to be secured to the government of China. It was the minister's intention to propose that it should be collected by the government of India, and remitted to China under the following conditions:—

The Customs Returns, published quarterly or annually, show the quantity of opium that pays Tariff duty at the ports. On every picul entered by the Customs as paying Tariff duty, I should have moved the Government of India to pay *li-kin* at the rate agreed to, remittance being made either of the whole or of whatever proportion the Chinese Government might desire to the Government of the province into which the opium was shown, by the Customs Returns, to have been imported. The apprehension of the provincial Governments that a change in the system of collection would cripple their resources would thus have been set at rest. For the opium proved to have been left at Hong Kong, and not carried to the Treaty ports (the colonial quota being, of course, set apart as paying neither Tariff duty nor *li-kin*), I would have moved the Government of India to pay both upon the balance; but according to the annual, and not the quarterly Return, as there might have been difficulty in declaring the amount to be taxed before the annual Report was completed by the Customs.

Sir THOMAS then goes on to say that, three years having elapsed since the agreement was signed, if it should prove impossible to arrive at any satisfactory solution of the question of *li-kin* on opium, he would recommend the British government to offer the surrender of the ports and places of call, "for which it found itself unable to yield the *quid pro quo* that I had contemplated." He further repudiates the suggestion of one of the Chinese ministers that his readiness to give back the right to trade at these ports was suggested by the discovery that our merchants did not greatly frequent the ports, and that British trade had not derived the advantage expected from opening them.

If we have succeeded in conveying clearly and accurately the substance of this very long despatch, it will be evident that, from the British minister's point of view:—

- 1.—The Chinese promised to open the ports and places of call within six months after approval by the emperor.
- 2.—The promise of the British envoy was to move his government (a) to consent to the collection of *li-kin* on opium at the same time as the duty, and (b) to agree to the limitation of area for collecting the *li-kin*.
- 3.—The second of these promises depended on the consent of the other treaty powers, which the Chinese government have not yet obtained; while the scheme for carrying out the first suggested by Sir THOMAS WADE was rejected by the Chinese. And, finally, the envoy offers to recommend that the concession of the ports be given up again to the Chinese government. Sir THOMAS WADE, therefore, cannot be accused of neglect, or

want of desire to carry out the provisions of his own convention.

We now come to the reply of the Prince of KUNG to the despatch summarised above. The suggestion that a uniform rate of duty be collected by the Indian government and annually remitted to China, is met by the haughty remark that "it is not desirable the Viceroy of India should be troubled with a duty which properly belongs to the Chinese executive." The despatch states that the forty taels per picul proposed to be levied on opium would be insufficient, and that unless the rate were raised to sixty taels it would not suffice to make good the amount that should be collected at the ports by the several provincial jurisdictions in which they are. As an instance of the tone assumed throughout the despatch we may quote the following. The Chinese having suggested that as the difficulty of settling a uniform rate acceptable to both parties seemed insurmountable, it would be better that *li-kin* should be levied at the rates ruling in the different ports at the time that the Chefoo agreement was signed, Sir THOMAS WADE asked for exact information as to the position of the *li-kin* collectorates inland of the ports, and the rates of *li-kin* levied at each of these. This is the manner in which this very reasonable request is refused:—

As regards the British Minister's desire to be informed of the locality of the *li-kin* stations in the interior, and of the Tariff of rates ruling. Article V of the Regulations appended to the Tariff states that, once opium has left the port, it becomes Chinese property, and may be taxed as the Chinese Government sees fit. Seeing that foreigners may not accompany opium into the interior, and that the moment it leaves the port it must be conveyed by Chinese subjects, it follows that it rests with the Chinese Government to decide what taxes shall be imposed upon it. This has nothing to do with the simultaneous collection of *li-kin* and Tariff duty at the ports by the foreign inspectorate. It therefore seems unnecessary to call for the data for communication to the British Minister, as thereby the date for putting the plan in operation would be further delayed.

As to closing the ports and places of call opened under the convention, the Prince writes that a memorial was submitted to the throne, and effect was given to the arrangements some years ago. "China has not the slightest desire to take them back; on the other hand, the British minister is earnestly requested to move his government to show its sense of justice by naming a date for carrying out the provisions of the agreement."

It is interesting to notice that the German minister and the envoys of four other "important" powers, urged their governments to move the British government to reject the commercial portions of the convention altogether. The termination of the discussion was an agreement to try for a term of five years at Shanghai the following arrangement, provided all the conditions were faithfully observed by the Chinese. We quote from Sir THOMAS WADE's last despatch:—

When the Chefoo agreement was signed in 1876, a *li-kin* office at Shanghai collected 40 taels per picul on opium as soon as it was sold. Inland of this office there existed other collectorates which taxed opium on its way inland. The foreign Customs inspectorate is now to replace the first or port collectorate, so far as opium is concerned, and is to levy *li-kin* upon the drug at the same rate as that in force in 1876. This rate is not to be raised during the term prescribed, and no fresh *li-kin* collectorate is to be established between the port collectorate and the second collectorate existing in 1876.

We must confess we should not have referred to this subject at all, were it not that the document which we have quoted above

helps to remove erroneous and prevalent impressions. Neither the British government nor the envoy in Peking can be accused of bad faith or neglect. The right of trade and residence at the new ports was conceded on two conditions; first, that the treaties notwithstanding, the Chinese government should be free to levy *li-kin* on imports outside the limits of the treaty port settlements; next, that the opium *li-kin* should be collected by the foreign inspectorate. All the treaty powers object to the first condition. Their assent has still to be obtained to the second. So far from Great Britain standing in the way of the due execution of the agreement, her envoy has suggested more than one mode of carrying it out, and has, in every way, shown his anxiety that there shall be no ground for accusations of bad faith against us.—July 16.

### THE OPIUM QUESTION IN PARLIAMENT.

IT is not our intention in the following article to enter into a discussion on the question of the opium traffic, nor to revive arguments on one side or the other which have been repeated with "damnable iteration," during the last quarter of a century both in the east and at home; our desire is merely to give a brief summary of a parliamentary debate on a subject which is of great importance to residents and trade out here. Although the motion is an annual one, there were several points of novelty raised during the debate which took place. One which we do not remember to have seen before was in reply to the argument that opium was a useful drug. Mr. PEASE, the originator of the debate, acknowledged this, but pointed to the fact that we in England put a restriction on its sale by ordering a register to be made of each purchase. Another argument used with great effect against the government of India was that in British Burmah, where the vice of opium-smoking was becoming more and more prevalent, strong measures had been taken to diminish it. Out of sixty-eight shops where opium was sold, forty-one had been closed, and the price of the drug at the same time increased twenty per cent. Its effects on the people there were reported by the chief commissioner to be a predisposition to disease, especially dysentery and cholera, a filthy habit of mind, and it filled the gaols with men of relaxed brains. To any one acquainted even slightly with parliamentary papers and books respecting the course of our relations with China, the honesty of the great number of Chinese officials in their expressed desire to be rid of the trade is beyond question, but we doubt whether, as Mr. PEASE seems to think, the recent treaty with the United States is any evidence of this. The American envoys, no doubt, were anxious to demonstrate in any way they properly could the friendship of their people and government for those of China, and the mode they adopted was a very cheap one. They agreed that American vessels should not for the future carry opium into Chinese ports. Now it is well known that these ships never did convey opium in any shape or form. The concession to Chinese desires was therefore one which the United States could very easily grant.

We may briefly sum up the arguments employed by the mover and seconder of the

motion and their supporters, as well as by the secretary of state for India and others on the other side.

1.—The danger of opium was shown by the restrictions put on its sale in England.

2.—The revenue raised in India by opium bore no resemblance to that raised in England by the drink traffic, because the consumption in one case was by our own fellow-countrymen, whereas in the other case it was by foreigners; and by far the greater part of the drink revenue was raised, not from the drunken part of the population, but from those who indulged in what to them was a harmless luxury.

3.—The argument that if the trade were stopped, a great increase in smuggling would take place, is a purely Chinese question with which we have nothing to do.

4.—It is said that if we did not supply the Chinese with opium some one else would. To this Mr. PEASE and his followers reply that it is no justification for our wrong-doing that others would also do wrong; it reminded him of Cowper's lines about the boy who was reluctantly persuaded to join in an orchard-plundering expedition by the plea that if he did not another boy would, and so "he shared in the plunder, but pitied the man."

5.—The evil and deleterious effects of opium were testified to by Sir RUTHERFORD ALCOCK, Sir THOMAS WADE, Mr. COOPER, and many others.

6.—In British Burmah we were ourselves taking steps to reduce the consumption of the drug amongst our own subjects as much as possible on account of its injurious effects on the physique and character of the people.

7.—The non-ratification of the Chefoo convention, the third section of which provided for restrictions on the opium trade, while we took the advantages granted to us by that agreement, was an act of bad faith towards the Chinese government.

[We hope shortly to review the papers just laid before Parliament on this subject. They show what steps the British government and their representative at Peking have taken to satisfy the Chinese, and also explain to a certain extent the reasons for allowing the convention to remain up to the present a dead letter on one side.]

8.—The question was one of Indian revenue, and of that alone; it was not a question of acquiring revenue, but as to the mode of acquiring it. The opium traffic was a most precarious source of revenue, for the Chinese government might at any moment put an end to it, and no English statesman would venture to advocate a new opium war.

Many of the arguments of Lord Hartington and his followers can be gathered from the above summary; the others advanced may be summarized as follows:—

1.—The revenue derived from opium is one which the people of India, if consulted, would be in favour of retaining.

2.—It has not been clearly or conclusively proved that the revenue is an immoral one; that China desires or is able to put a stop to the consumption of opium; or that it is our system which prevents her from doing so. The secretary of state, however, in view of the arguments advanced as to the precarious nature of the revenue thus derived, promised formally to invite the attention of the Indian government to the matter, and to ask them to thoroughly review their position, and see whether they cannot adopt some alteration of

the system which would render their connection with the trade less direct and place them in a sounder and better position. This is certainly the most satisfactory declaration that has yet been obtained on the subject. A careful perusal of recent debates makes it clear that the stumbling-block in the way of immediate withdrawal from the trade, is the serious embarrassments which such a course would cause to our Indian revenue, as well as a belief that the consumption of the drug would be in no wise diminished thereby.

We are sure that any fair *modus vivendi* that can be reached will be welcomed by all residents in the East. If the complaints of the Chinese government, as well as the outcries of well-disposed people at home, can be met in any equitable manner, it cannot but conduce to our good relations with the people of China, and to our own personal comfort and peace of mind.—July 9.

### KOREA AND THE POWERS.

ALTHOUGH the compulsory opening of Korea to foreign intercourse is quite on the programme of Russia in these regions, it is not unlikely to be frustrated by the lack of unanimity amongst the representatives of European powers, as well as by the empires of China and Japan whose interests in this question are paramount. In the former country the Korean question is the one above all others in which deepest interest is felt by the government. The ruling Manchu dynasty sprang from a race settled on the borders of Korea, and the closest political and other relations have existed between the two countries since the Dragon Throne came into its possession. Perhaps an explanation of the obstinate manner in which the present dynasty has clung to Peking at the northern extremity of the empire as the capital, may be found in the consciousness that the Manchu population represents some two millions amid a Chinese population of two hundred and fifty or three hundred millions, and that a retreat to the districts which were the cradle of their race lay always open to them in case of disaster. As a fact, we know that the emperor HIENFUNG in 1860, when the victorious allies were marching on Peking, availed himself of the geographical position of the latter to retreat to Jehol near the frontier of Manchuria. The rulers of China consequently watch with peculiar jealousy any movements of a foreign power toward the Korean peninsula. If the Chinese government have fought obstinately for the possession of a remote tract of country like Kashgar, which was only fully subjugated under this dynasty, how much more strongly may they be expected to feel for a region to which they are bound by peculiar historical ties, as also by considerations of self-interest in the future? It is well-known that recently the exchange of messages between Peking and Seoul has been especially active, and it is more than probable that the peninsular kingdom is appealing to its suzerain for advice and assistance in the straits in which it finds itself placed.

In the case of Japan, the question of the future of Korea is not of less importance than to China. Laying aside, as hardly likely to enter into the calculations of modern politicians, the gratitude which Japan owes for the introduction of arts and learning from Korea; apart, also, from the close

connection which has existed between the two countries in more recent times, Japan could not view with equanimity the possession of the coasts and harbours of Korea by a powerful and aggressive nation. The growth of the naval power of Russia in the Pacific, the increase of that power which the possession of harbours, open all the year round and suitable for dockyards and arsenals, would give, would be a standing menace to Japan. The government of this country probably have learned enough from history to know that the lust for territory which has characterised the house of ROMANOFF is only bounded by its power to accomplish its desires. Even the present government of England, whose aim seems to be to live on friendly terms with Russia, and to find a *modus vivendi* in Central Asia, could hardly view with complaisance the aggrandisement of Russian power in this part of the world, more especially as it would be accompanied by a close commercial monopoly. The policy of France towards races subject to her power, shows that she is by no means inclined to regard with favour any severe measures towards Asiatic races, and, even where the political interests of France are considerable, as in Tonquin, the kingdom adjacent to her Cochin Chinese possessions, such measures are much deprecated. The interests of Germany in all cases, seem to lead to curbing the power and influence of Russia and to discouraging further Russian influence in the commerce of this part of Asia. The friction of tariffs between Germany and Russia in Europe seems to be regarded as of much magnitude, and should, one would think, lead the former to prevent, if possible, similar complications on this side of the globe. Germany, however, is said to have her eyes fixed on the acquisition of a territorial position off the Chinese coasts, so that the course which she may decide to pursue is not very apparent.

Lastly, America is the only other country specially interested in this quarter of the world, and we may be certain here of a considerate policy which will be likely to achieve success. Should Korea be soon thrown open to foreign intercourse, it will in all probability be the result of the exertions of the United States. It is of course useless to speculate upon the direct or indirect result of Commodore SCHUFELDT's mission, but one consequence it probably has had, namely, to open the eyes of the Koreans to the certainty that they must sooner or later abandon their long isolation in deference to the requirements of Europe and America.

So much for the powers on the one side principally interested in this question: and now we come to Russia. Russia is not likely of its own accord to force a quarrel with Korea. She knows full well how sensitively the Chinese government feel respecting Korea; and in view of the difficulties involved in the lately settled Kuldja question, Russia will not, it may be surmised, wish to renew the sore with China by wanton aggression in Korea. Those who carefully watch the deliberation with which Russia pursues her policy of territorial absorption in the east, will see that she rarely forces on a quarrel; and it is evident the Koreans will be in no mood to quarrel with her just now. It seems, therefore, more probable that she will prefer to join with the other powers in obtaining peaceful commercial concessions from Korea, and will leave projects of annexation in abeyance for another opportunity, which is pretty sure to occur along the wild frontier between Korea and eastern Siberia.—July 23.

### THE PORONAI RAILWAY.

WE have to acknowledge with thanks a comprehensive, clear, and valuable account of the construction, cost, and prospects of this northern railway venture, forwarded to us by a correspondent who has personally inspected the works.

A careful perusal of the paper shows us that in this northern district are to be found, in an exceptional degree, all the elements of a cheap railway. A level country; the minimum quantity of water, one bridge only being mentioned; abundance of good timber which, thanks to the monopoly of the coast trade, is of little value; a quantity of rolling stock that virtually suggests, what we fear is true, that there is no traffic at all; the absence of stations; and, finally, that the line is only now being ballasted. An item of some importance in connection with the cost of this line is the number of tunnels. There are three cut through stone, and two through clay; and it is not possible to estimate the addition to the expenses caused by these works without fuller information about the nature of the material. If the stone is not harder than the strata abounding in the neighbourhood of this port the cost of the cuttings would not be great. Another important factor in correctly understanding the cost of this line is, that the portion between Otaru and Zenibako is, according to the consular trade report just published, laid upon "the only available road, which had been cut in the cliff, to the great discontent of the inhabitants"; and, if our information is correct, other portions of the line run along a road previously laid and which required little if any labour and expense to adapt it for its present use. To whatever extent the high road may have been used as a railway track the cost will be proportionately affected; and our informant will add to the value of the particulars already given by supplying the miles of track specially made for the purposes of this line in contradistinction to the portion appropriated from the public roads.

Some stress is laid upon the superiority of the American system of railways which is recommended as more suitable than any other for introduction into Japan. This system may be described in few words. In the United States timber is of fine quality, abundant, and cheap, and quantities are used for the larger bridges and other great works in lieu of iron: the plains are elevated, and enjoy an exceptionally dry climate. These advantages are not possessed in the same degree by any other country, and they tend to simplify the construction of railways. The track is formed, sleepers are placed upon it, metals are laid upon the sleepers, and the road is ready for opening. The exposure of the sleepers in a dry climate preserves them; covering would ensure their speedy destruction. In England, and in many parts of Japan, good timber is both scarce and costly; while in the latter country at least the rainfall and degree of humidity of the air are in excess of the United States. To preserve timber in a wet climate resort must be had to precisely the reverse of the American process. In fact, the climatic conditions are essentially different, and in Japan it is necessary to put down a layer of porous ballast on which the sleeper is laid to be again covered in with the same material, to ensure the proper degree of moisture to the timber, and preserve it from lodgments of water which would assuredly cause it to rot. Hence,

if economy is to be practised, each locality must be dealt with with special regard to its merits and conditions.

We fear our informant is rather too sanguine in anticipating a return of four to six per cent. during the first five years, a period when ordinarily the outlay absorbs the whole of the gross returns. What the traffic receipts are we do not know, but on reference again to the consular report we find receipts from passengers are about 100 yen daily; no traffic statistics are obtainable; "but in every one's opinion the line is never likely to pay expenses."

A pier must naturally be an important adjunct to a railway terminus in a sea port; and one a quarter of a mile in length is an undertaking deserving of some consideration. The cost of this pier is not stated; but we may estimate it by the fact that its price was saved by twenty-eight days' service at \$225 per day, or \$6,300. This sum means very simple construction and very cheap timber; while the amount of demurrage paid to a vessel discharging her cargo at Otaru suggests a stormy and exposed harbour.

Much weight will not be attached to a point dwelt on by our correspondent, namely, that the far greater part of the work was done by men not accustomed to its performance. There was no work on this railway to which ordinary labourers are not accustomed, except, perhaps, the mere laying of the metals. Workmen can more readily grade a railway than a common road. In the latter case much has to be done by the eye; in the former, guides are placed at such short distances apart that error becomes practically impossible. If there is not a staff of efficient workmen for such purposes in Yezo after so many years training, then the time of the Colonization Commission, and the money it has expended, have been badly spent. We can vouch for the fact that upon extensive works where a staff of men can be steadily kept, the Japanese labourer develops into an excellent workman.

One point to which our correspondent only slightly refers, has always seemed to require explanation. "The rails were made in England, and purchased in bond in New York, the price being no cheaper than American iron of the same grade." Does this mean, or are we justified in assuming it to mean, that the price charged for the rails in bond was the same as would have been paid for American iron of the same grade? That English rails burdened with a heavy protective duty of some 40 to 60 per cent., and all costs of carriage, can compete successfully with rails made in America, is a fact admitting of no dispute. If, therefore, the price paid for them in this instance was the same as that for American made rails of the same quality, that price includes the duty which was not incurred, the rails having simply been transhipped in bond. The locomotives and rolling stock were made in America, and it would be interesting if we could also learn their cost. No one can purchase manufactures of this kind in a country where protection reigns supreme, of the quality and at the price at which they can be obtained in a free trade state. We take the protectionists on their own ground, and say they cannot compete with manufacturers in a country where protection has no place in the commercial policy of their government. And we are further at a loss to know why this railway, which is said to be entirely American, should be laid with English-made rails. Convenience of shipment is scarcely explanation enough.



We will now venture to deal with a matter strongly pressed by our correspondent. He recommends Japanese railways to be constructed first temporarily and made permanent as the traffic increases, as is done in America. To build temporarily and then proceed to make the line permanent, is the most expensive of all kinds of construction. The process is, however, most suited to the present wants of the United States, and the most unsuited to the wants of Japan, as we will endeavour to show. The frequency with which the United States is held up to Japan as an example leads to the belief that they who do so recognize, or think they see in this country, the conditions which make the United States what she is; and in the simple, rather indolent, and slow Japanese the acute, energetic, enterprising, and quick-witted American. No two countries are so dissimilar. In government, laws, inventive science, trade, industry; in climate, products, and popular energy, the two nations are as wide asunder as the poles; and we think no greater error can be made than to recommend Japan to adopt a system of railway construction merely because that system has been adopted in America. We will endeavour to demonstrate this proposition. In the United States a company is formed to carry a line of railway some immense distance across the plains and through vast tracts of rich but unoccupied land. As an inducement to go on with the work the government present the company with a broad belt of land along the track of the projected line, which is then commenced in the cheapest manner. As the line progresses, settlers come in and follow it, and the sale of part of the company's land provides funds for remaking the road, the company obtaining fuller profits from the surplus land it still holds; precisely the case of a fisherman throwing away his bait to secure a larger haul. When a railway is made across the plains few if any stations are provided until the second work is begun, and as the country fills up. Indeed it is doubtful if the vast continent could be opened by any other means. In Japan, on the other hand, we have a thickly populated but very poor country; its lands fully occupied. If a company is formed there are no lands to be given to it, at least in the districts where a line could be of use; and the company, to carry out the work, must find money wherewith to purchase every field through which its line passes. If a temporary line is laid, as in America, before the first expense has been realised, everything has to be remade. There are no lands increasing in value to dispose of and the only funds are derived from the traffic, which is interfered with by the condition of the road; those funds would not be sufficient to remake the line within any reasonable period; no dividends would be forthcoming; and bankruptcy would inevitably result.

For a country such as this the most economical railway will be one where all ornamentation is rigidly eschewed, but where the work is durable and strong; and at least all the foundations should be of a permanent character. In a thickly populated country, stations at all principal points are indispensable; at minor places a mere shed with a ticket office in the corner is sufficient; but at all points where goods, produce, &c., are received or delivered, efficient shelter must be provided.

Much has been heard about the Poronai railway, but this is the first time a hint has been given that reconstruction, with more

permanent works and new and heavier metals, will be necessary as soon as any traffic takes place. The general impression has hitherto been that the railway was, in all respects, complete, and a triumph of economical construction; now we begin to doubt whether any active and intelligent engineer could not, under similar circumstances, accomplish the building of a similar railway for a similar cost, namely, \$18,041 per mile. We do not for a moment doubt Mr. CRAWFORD's ability; but we are free to confess an examination into the circumstances goes far to dim the somewhat brilliant light with which the first American railway in Japan has been surrounded; and to lessen the force of the comparisons drawn by the American press at the cost of railways made under widely different conditions; costly, but permanent and good—though constructed by English not American engineers.—July 9.

## Miscellaneous Articles.

### THE COSTLINESS OF DISEASE.

OF all the arguments in favour of sanitary reform probably the most convincing is that which appeals to the pocket. The gist of this argument is that, as in commerce honesty is the best policy in the long run, so, in political economy, health, the economy of a nation's lives, is eventually the happiest, the cheapest, and the most conducive to real prosperity.

It is a great mistake to suppose that the chief destruction of life arises from wars, whether at home or abroad, or that disease causing a most fearful destruction of life, and entailing an enormous amount of suffering on the survivors, may not go hand in hand with perfect political tranquillity, and an apparently prosperous state of the country. This prosperity is apparent only because the deaths take place quietly in the homes of the people. The loss to the country, however, is just the same when a man in the prime of life and strength dies, whether it be on the battlefield or in his own house.

Setting aside for the present all considerations of humanity, and the imperative duty of the state to protect the lives of its citizens, let us consider what is the actual loss to the wealth of the country from sickness and death?

The wealth of a country consists primarily of the energy of its people, as shown in the various forms of labour. "The qualities of a people, their moral, intellectual, and physical natures are parts of their wealth." "What men are is a force of enormous power in determining the amount of the wealth they create."<sup>(1)</sup> It is obvious that a nation thinned by epidemics and depressed by the cares and loss of time attendant on a large disease-rate is not in a fair position to progress rapidly in the arts of civilization.

Suppose the prime of life to be that age at which the individual begins to repay to the state by his labour the cost of his previous maintenance. If he dies then the state loses all that profit which his subsequent labour would have added. Dr. FARR, late of the General Register Office, London, so well known by his papers in the registrar-general's reports, considered the money value of the

agricultural labourer at 25 years of age worth 246l. 7s. (say \$1200) this being the estimate of his future wages less the cost of his maintenance.<sup>(2)</sup> In the case of the child there is a less loss than in that of the adult in the prime of life; in the case of the old man who dies past work there is an apparent gain. We say apparent, because in a model community we must assume that death will only occur at a ripe old age almost suddenly or after a very short illness consisting only of a failing of the vital powers. There is a wide difference between this and the deaths of the old as they are practically found to occur, often after years of valetudinarian life, which may swallow up in its cost to the state nearly all the wealth contributed to it by the same individual in the days of his active manhood. We must not lose sight either of the greatest gains of all, those produced by the intellectual classes to whose ideas the state becomes so much indebted for its progress in the guidance of state affairs, the prevention of disease, the making and executing of laws, and in the arts and manufactures. Those who are most eminent and useful in these departments are too often cut off when their wisdom is just ripening, and their lives as a rule are most useful at their close.

Mr. BALDWIN LATHAM<sup>(3)</sup> makes the following estimate for the town of Croydon.

	per 1000
Average mortality from 1848 to 1855 (8 years) .....	24.03
Average mortality from 1855 to 1875 (20 years) .....	19.56
Lives saved .....	4.47
Population in 1848 .....	19,168
Population in middle of 1875 .....	68,000
Mean population from 1855 to 1875 ..	43,912

Taking out of this mean population of 43,912, the 4.47 per 1000, the lives saved, and multiplying by the number of years, 20, we get 3926, the number of lives saved in that time; of these about  $\frac{1}{4}$  or 2356 would be adults (over the age of 20). Of these probably one-tenth would be infirm from age, who being deducted leave 2121 persons in the full vigour of life who have been saved.

Now let us take the money cost which this saving of life represents. This writer estimates the saving thus.

Funeral expenses, each 5l.  
 "Saving by reason of escape from sickness, with its cost including the value of labour which is lost. To be on the safe side it may be taken, for every life saved by sanitary works, twenty-five persons would escape sickness, and that £1 per case would represent but a moderate value of the result, including loss of time, physic, medical, and other attendance."

Value of future labour by rescue from premature death, mean per week 7s. 6d.

3926 funerals at 5l. each .....	£ 19,630
3926x25=98150 cases of sickness prevented at 1l. each .....	98,150
2121 labourers at 19l. 10s. each for 10 years (i.e. averaging the deaths to have been equally distributed during the 20 years) .....	413,995

£531,375

The expenditure, on the other hand, on works of public health in Croydon was as follows:—

(2) Quoted by Baldwin Latham. *Sanitary Engineering* p. 12.  
 (3) *Sanitary Engineering* p. 13.

(1) Bonamy Price. *Practical Political Economy* p. 80.

Purchase of freehold lands .....	£ 55,000
Construction of waterworks .....	80,000
Construction of sewers, sewage irrigation works, public baths, abattoirs, and general improve- ments .....	132,665
	267,665
This deducted from .....	581,875

Leaves..... £263,710

"So that in the short space of twenty years a sum exceeding by 95 per cent. the total expenditure for works executed and the purchase of freehold property has resulted from the prosecution of sanitary measures."

Now let us take the case of the Japanese labourer, premising that the following calculations are only of a rough and tentative kind, and that it is not attempted to prove by them more than this, that incapacity for work from sickness constitutes a very serious loss to the country, and one which it would be most wise economy to avoid. The money thus saved, it might be inferred by analogy, would be more than sufficient to construct the necessary sanitary works and establish a system of sanitary inspection.

Turning to Consul-General VAN BUREN's report (\*) we find that the daily wages among Japanese labourers vary as follows:—

Miners.....	8 cents to 20 cents.
Fishermen .....	15 " " 20 "
Packers .....	10 " " 16 "
Car-men .....	10 " " 20 "
Jinrikisha men .....	25 " " 50 "
Farm hands.....	15 " " 20 "

Let us take as a low average amount 15 cents per day for unskilled labour requiring no special training. This comes to \$54.75 per annum.

We find the cost of clothing per annum estimated at not more than \$5.00  
Rent at about ..... 8.00  
Food estimated roughly at 25.00

\$54.75—\$38.00 leaves 16.75

So that, after paying for bare subsistence, the labourer contributes about \$16 per annum to the general wealth of the nation. This, however, must not be considered as profit until the primary expense of his rearing is deducted. Let us suppose that for the first 12 years of life he earns nothing, and that the cost of his subsistence is about two-thirds of that of an adult, say \$25; that from the age of 12 to that of 20 his earnings are equivalent to his maintenance; then to repay the cost of his rearing to the age of 12, (which amounts to \$300) he must work without a day's illness for nearly 19 years. By that time he will be 39 years of age. If he dies before that age he will, as a state wealth-producing unit, have only been an abortive one, and his death represents a bad debt incurred by the state.

During the last four months of 1877 (\*) 7,967 persons died from choleraic diseases in Japan. If we take about half of these, say 3,900 as being labour-producing adults earning 15 cents per day, their deaths represent a yearly loss of labour equivalent in wages to \$213,525. This should be multiplied by the average expectation of life in ordinary times to give the total loss to the country. We are not aware of any statistics to show what that

expectation may be, but surely 15 years would not be a very excessive estimate. This makes the amount, \$3,202,875. No reckoning is made in this estimate for the interest of money, yet 20 years must elapse before 3,900 fresh labourers can be reared.

Besides those 7,967 persons who died there were 5,748 who were attacked but recovered. If the loss of time for labour be computed on the same basis for these at an average of at least three days each at 15 cents per day, we have an additional loss of \$5,168.70. Two dollars would, we believe, be a moderate estimate for a Japanese funeral. The total loss represented in money for one year of such an epidemic would be:—

Value of labour lost by deaths ...	\$3,202,875
Value of labour lost of say 2,875 persons, by sickness .....	1,294
7,967 funerals at \$2 each .....	15,934
	\$3,220,103

During the year 1879 nearly 150,000 persons were attacked by choleraic diseases, of whom 100,000 died. If we take about half of these, say 50,000, as being labour-producing adults earning 15 cents per day (or \$54.75 per annum), their deaths represent a yearly loss of labour equivalent in wages to \$2,737,500. This should be multiplied by the average expectation of life in ordinary times to give the total loss to the country, and it would be as well to deduct from it half one year's wages as representing the average of wages gained before death occurred

Thus .....	\$2,737,500 × 15 = \$41,062,500
Less.....	1,868,750
	\$39,193,750

Add to this the lost wages of say half (i.e. 25,000) those who recovered, estimated at 15 cents a day for three days Two dollars each for funerals. The total loss, then, in money for one year of such an epidemic would be, Value of labour lost by deaths \$39,193,750 " of labour lost by sickness 11,250 100,000 funerals at \$2 each..... 200,000	
Total .....	\$39,405,000

No reckoning is made in this estimate for the interest of money, yet twenty years must elapse before these 50,000 labourers can be replaced.

Summing up these results, we find that the real loss to the state is the wealth which these adult labourers would have produced had their lives been prolonged to the full average expectation of fifteen years taken as the mean duration of life for all ages from 20 to 39. That wealth, less the proportion which would have been consumed by the producer, is estimated, as shown above, at \$16.75 yearly per head. The two choleraic epidemics referred to in this article, putting on one side all incidental expenditure and loss necessitated by sickness and death, have deprived the nation of 53,900 wealth-producing units, requiring twenty years to replace, each worth to the state \$16.75 per annum; the real net loss is, therefore, \$13,093,625.

Rough and approximative as the above figures may be, we fancy no one will deny that there is a great loss annually to this country from preventable disease, however difficult it may be to estimate the amount. And although this loss is most obvious in times of epidemics yet to a lesser extent it is always going on.—July 16.

## NAVIGATION LAWS AND SHIPPING.

WE recently reprinted a paper from the *North American Review* entitled "Shall Americans own ships?" This admirably written paper, like many other contributions to that excellent review, is composed in language of such rare perspicuity that to attempt to convey the point in fewer words than are contained in the original, seems mere impertinence. All those interested in questions of such great importance will do well to read Professor SUMNER's paper demonstrating that if ship-owning is a profitable industry it will be undertaken by the people and made to flourish wholly independent of all government subsidies or protective laws: if, on the contrary, the undertaking is not naturally remunerative, subsidies and laws are alike powerless to raise up an industry which can only flourish, like an exotic, in a costly artificial atmosphere, perishing the moment it is exposed to the free air of competition.

The arguments from time to time adduced by Japanese defenders of the coast monopoly are three in number. 1. Encouragement of home shipbuilding, and the formation of a native merchant navy. 2. A training school for seamen to be used, when the emergency arises, for national defence. 3. The sovereign right of Japan to the control of her own coast trade. For the furtherance of these objects the law rigidly closes every port in Japan, with five exceptions, to foreign vessels: refuses permission to a Japanese subject to charter for his own use, and under conditions, any vessel owned by others than Japanese subjects; and endeavours to supply the great wants of the farmers for cheap carriage by founding an official company sufficiently strong to prevent all native competition. The result of this policy is that shipbuilding is not encouraged and the tonnage of the merchant navy is diminishing: that the number of seamen employed is too limited to be of any service whatsoever for national defence; while the "sovereign right" is exercised to exclude the formation of that which is indispensably necessary to the extension of the nation's commerce.

No excuse need be made for pointing out to the Japanese people the mistaken legislation which has a direct tendency to defeat the objects it professes to have in view; and as the example of the United States has frequently been quoted by supporters of the policy of Japan we purpose to reproduce some few passages from the speech of Senator BRICK, prefacing a resolution for the repeal of those laws which are now admitted to be highly injurious to the mercantile marine of the United States. Senator BRICK's arguments are directed against the laws which prohibit the registration of vessels built abroad though owned and manned by Americans; those arguments seem to us perfectly sound, and to apply with equal force to the law of Japan which prohibits the use of chartered foreign vessels, though for Japanese purposes solely, and under conditions eminently favourable to the nation. We must confine our quotations to those passages which relate to the influence of the navigation laws upon national defence and commerce; for, in common with a large majority, we hold that this country can never be prosperous until all restrictions upon the conveyance of her commodities are removed. Japan, like the United States, is essentially an agricultural country, and, in the words of Senator BRICK:—

(\*) *Labour in Japan*. Report by Consul-General Van Buren. 1881.

(\*) *Report on choleraic diseases*, by the director of the Central Sanitary Bureau, Tokio.

"The problem, in the proper solution of which we are more interested than any other people, is how to reach the markets of the world with our products at the least cost."

Following Senator BECK, making those changes necessary to apply his arguments to Japan, we say that all men know the whole cost of carriage is paid by the producer. If a merchant here proposes to buy a cargo of wheat or rice to sell in China, his first step is to learn at what he can sell it for there, what it will cost to transport it from Japan to the port of sale, insurance, interest, and a reasonable profit. These items are made into one sum and deducted from the selling price; the residue is all the merchant can afford to pay to the producer. Freight on agricultural products bears a large proportion to their value: when, therefore, the normal freight payable is exceeded, the producer is deprived of his profit; and this is carried so far in Japan that the rate of freight, unchecked by competition, compels the producer to part with his property at a loss, or let it rot on the ground which produced it. The position is simply this. The Japanese people cannot charter a cheap Japanese ship for the convincing reason that there are no cheap Japanese ships; and if a foreign ship is ready to carry from Akita to Canton for 40 cents per koku, and a Japanese built ship demands \$1.50 for the same work, the producer must pay the \$1.50 or let his goods go to waste. What is to be done under such circumstances?

"There are but two courses to pursue. One is to adopt the principles of a semi-civilised age and impose restrictions upon commerce, which will be sure to cause retaliatory measures by other nations; the other is to be in accord with the progress of the age, and remove the restrictions that already exist, a relic of former days."

If the effect of American laws on the nursery for sailors to man her fleet has any point whatever, it is one peculiarly applicable to Japan. One of the primary objects of confining the coast trade to Japanese owned shipping is to train seamen who may when required be drafted into the navy. This argument has been used over and over again by American statesmen. Mr. BECK says:—

"Worse for us than all else, our policy of maintaining absurd, obsolete navigation laws which we copied from England, but which she abandoned years ago, has not only enabled her to quadruple her commercial marine in the last twenty years, but we foolishly furnish her with the principal means of support for her legions of trained sailors, the men upon whom she relies, to humiliate, if not to crush us, in event of war. Where are ours. Where are the trained sailors of whom we were so proud in the days of our maritime greatness? England and other maritime nations know equally well that sailors cannot be trained in a day nor a year. They know that we have none now. Mere questions of individual profit are too insignificant to be considered when national power, prosperity, and supremacy are involved, as they are in this great problem."

Those who endeavoured to destroy the effect of Mr. BECK's powerful speech failed, but Mr. BECK's resolution was ordered to lie on the table; while a counter resolution, brought forward by Mr. BLAINE, was referred to the committee on finance. The provisions of that resolution almost surpass belief. They are simply and briefly to maintain the existing state of things, and to "encourage" the building of "American ships, of American materials, and by American mechanics, which

shall be commanded by citizens of the United States, and be manned by crews of whom at least three-fourths are American citizens." These conditions fulfilled, the spirited owners are to receive, and the people burdened with the ships are to pay, in the shape of mail subsidies, "80 dollars per nautical mile per annum for the distance one way for twelve round trips per annum, 45 dollars for twenty-four trips and 60 dollars for forty-eight trips!"—July 23.

#### AMERICAN VIEWS OF PROTECTION.

IN his most able speech before the Senate, Mr. BECK made some terrific onslaughts on protection, which were but imperfectly and weakly encountered by Senators BLAINE and MORRILL. Referring to the taxes levied on shipowners and others for the protection of the shipbuilder, Mr. BECK said:—

"Protection cannot be extended to the foreign-carrying trade; its operations are all beyond our jurisdiction. It is enough to show, in order to ask for cheap ships, that American shipowners cannot be protected in their foreign business, and can only compete when they are allowed to own ships which cost them no more than those owned by their competitors."

"England did not hesitate to repeal her navigation laws in 1849. When she needed cheap ships she bought them from us, manned them with her own sailors, earned and pocketed the freights, and never supposed that she was either degraded or humiliated as a maritime power by repealing the navigation laws passed in CROMWELL's time under altogether different conditions, and when different ideas as to the relations of nations to each other prevailed. There is no sentiment in business."

"It is a most remarkable fact that, despite the boasts that have been made that iron ships can be built at the same price in this country as on the Clyde, there is not a single iron sailing ship under our own flag. While all other nations are privileged to buy in the cheapest market, we are excluded, and for the purpose, we are told, of protecting American industry."

"A most impressive fact with reference to our trade with Europe is that the grain fleet despatched from New York last year numbered 2,987 vessels carrying 102,312,568 bushels of grain, of which 1,075 were steamers carrying 42,000,000 bushels, the remaining 1,822 being sailing vessels carrying 60,000,000 bushels. All of this tonnage includes not one American steamer, and only seventy-four American sailing vessels."

American inter-port trade is confined to American owned ships; a rule copied by Japan. All American ports are open to the world; a rule not copied by Japan. American navigation laws were framed to force the carrying trade into the hands of American shipowners, which is the intention of the Japanese law for Japanese shipowners. Had the American laws had the desired effect of driving foreign vessels away from American ports, only one-fiftieth part of the grain shipped in New York in 1880 could have been delivered to the purchaser. That is the position of Japan at the present moment.

Protection has the same effect upon other branches of trade as it has upon shipping. Mr. BECK, in dealing with the problem of how to place American products on the markets of the world, says:—

"Our abominable protective tariff system not only adds 40 per cent. to the cost of our

products, but prevents our people from engaging in producing manufactures to any great extent beyond what can be consumed at home. Why? Because the moment their products leave our shores they come into unprotected competition with free goods, manufactured from free materials, by cheap labour; so that agriculture is and must continue to be the pursuit followed by a large majority of our people, and the relative proportion must increase year by year."

The point of this is, that protected industries prevent the people from buying their products in a cheap market; while free goods prevent the protected manufacturer from exporting.

"Unlike the ship on the ocean our machinery does not pretend to compete with foreign machinery or foreign labour or capital, though able to do so; it is protected by law against all outside interference; its owners are content to monopolize the home market; congressional authority guards it through tariff taxation against foreign competition; its owners are content to surrender to other nations the trade of all the rest of the world for the privilege of extorting exorbitant prices for its products from 50,000,000 of people in the United States."

Protection, in whatever light it is viewed, leads up to one invariable conclusion, namely, that it is one-sided and unjust. A certain number of people found industries and work them at a dead loss, which an unwise legislature compels a free people to bear. That such industries are a national loss is clearly proved by the certainty that, once outside of the protective influence, the goods of monopolists cannot be sold on equal terms with the goods of makers exposed to competition on all sides. Protectionists know this thoroughly well; and every effort is made by them to keep up the burden upon their own people, because they are confident no one else will submit to it. That the genuine protectionist is animated by any patriotic spirit is generally denied, his policy being the outcome of pure selfishness. Thus, Mr. BECK.—

"No degradation is felt by the American machine-owner either in using foreign machinery, or by driving out American by Chinese or other pauper labour when he can make money by it, notwithstanding the horror he professes to feel when we propose to allow our people to buy cheap ships to reach foreign markets with the produce of our farms."

Professor SUMNER says:—

"We boast a great deal of having a free country. Our orators shout themselves hoarse about liberty and freedom. Stop one of them, however, and ask him if he means free trade and free ships, and he will demur: No; not that. That will not do. He is in favour of freedom for himself and his friends in those respect in which they want liberty against other people, but he is not in favour of freedom for other people against restraints which are advantageous to him and his political allies. He is in favour of freedom for those who are being oppressed—by somebody else; not for those who are being oppressed by himself."

Quite so. Your true protectionist is the most powerful opponent of protection for any one but himself. Mr. CAREY, whom Mr. BECK quotes as uttering the sentiments of most of his class, said:—

"The very best thing that could happen to the United States would be to have the ocean that rolls between the two continents converted into a sea of fire so impassable, that if



Dives were in Europe and Lazarus in Pennsylvania, they could not under any circumstances enter into commercial correspondence."

Our Japanese readers, many of whom are beginning to distinguish between the crooked and injurious policy of protection and the beneficent action of free commerce, will wonder that a people so enlightened as the Americans unquestionably are should submit to this state of things. Mr. Beck wonders also, but he strikes the key note by saying:—

"Steel rails with 28 dollars a ton protection against foreign invasion, and protection by patent against home competition, enables eleven corporations, whose product is over 1,000,000 tons a year, to pocket 28,000,000 dollars less the few millions they have to subscribe periodically for campaign-corruption funds, in order to secure power to the party that maintains their privileges, which protection provides little or no revenue to support the government, and gives no relief to the tax-payers."

A power mightier than protectionists have yet dreamed of is fast growing up; and the day is not far distant when Americans will arise and with irresistible force put an end to an abuse which is a never-ending source of ridicule against a power that claims to be free. When that time comes where will the protectionists be?—*July 23.*

## Reports.

### THE TOKIO DAIGAKU.

THOSE who have the welfare of Japan at heart watch with interest the progress education is making in the metropolis and the provinces. Foremost in the rank of educational institutions is the Tokio Daigaku, better known, perhaps, as the Kaisei-gaku, the name having been but recently changed. It numbers among its teachers several foreign professors, whose capacity for the duties they have undertaken is well known; and, also, the most able scholars that Japan has yet produced; many of whom will undoubtedly make their mark in the history of this country.

Saturday, the 9th instant, was the day appointed for the bestowal of degrees upon the students who had succeeded in graduating, and the number of successful students nearly doubled those who passed the examination at the end of the previous term, being sixty-nine against thirty-eight, a fact well worthy of notice as demonstrating the assiduity of the teachers and aptitude of the scholars. The graduates in law are nine, chemistry four, biology three, mechanical engineering two, civil engineering six, geology one, mining and metallurgy one, medicine twenty-eight, pharmacutics nine, political economy and philosophy one, political economy and political philosophy two, philosophy and political philosophy one, political philosophy and political economy one, Japanese and Chinese one.

The grounds were tastefully decorated with festoons of lanterns; and in the evening the electric light was exhibited to the astonished gaze of an admiring multitude who lined the fences outside the grounds. The various experimental rooms and museum were thrown open to the public in the afternoon. The latter is a place well worthy of

inspection, as it probably contains the best collection of geological specimens in Japan, besides numerous antique articles which are both attractive and curious.

The museum building itself, though not very elegant in design, has the advantage of being ample in space for the successful showing of the thousands of exhibits which it contains. Entering through a turnstile—at which sits the official in charge of the museum,—the visitor is attracted towards three or four show cases which stand in front of the entrance. Two of these cases contain numerous small samples of wood, cut into every conceivable design the students of mathematics and geometry could think of. Turning to the right a case containing some very beautiful specimens of geology stands perpendicular with the wall. Here are garnets set, as it were, in brilliant mica; a magnificent agate, an opal of large size in its crude state, with a crust resembling in appearance a piece of charred wood, besides numerous specimens of copper, coal, and other minerals with which every person is more or less familiar. In other cases there are smaller specimens of geology, put up in homeopathic doses, in small bottles tightly corked and numbered. On the top of each case are some large stones such as smoked quartz, silicified wood-opal, quartz alum, various kinds of marble, an uncrystallized translucent variety of quartz. In the cases are fair sized specimens of sulphur, crystals, silver ore, galenite, blenda, malachite, jasper, mica, talc, and others too numerous to particularize, but all worthy of inspection.

Passing through a door-way the visitor enters a long narrow room, filled with show cases containing specimens of geology. At one end hangs a photograph of the movements of the earth during the earthquake of March 8th, 1881, which occurred at 12.20 p.m., as photographed from the glass plate of professor Ewing's seismograph. The plate is said to have been making one revolution in seventy-eight seconds, and the record extends over two complete revolutions. The walls of this room are hung with paintings, two of which represent the upper and lower extremities of the Zermatt glacier, another an eruption of Vesuvius as seen from Naples on the 22nd October, 1822: an eruption of Oshima as witnessed on the 20th January 1877.

Running parallel with this room is another of equal dimensions, filled with fossil remains of various animals, including the jaw bones of a gigantic mastodon. There are also shells, though not in very great variety.

Ascending a winding staircase the visitor is ushered into another long room, in which are fish preserved in spirits, butterflies perforated with pins, skeletons of large and small animals, birds, reptiles; crabs of all sorts and sizes, stuffed frogs of immense size, a squirrel, lizards, and a rather puny specimen of a wallaby. Another room is filled with woods of various kinds, seeds, old pottery, fragments of cooking utensils, stone axes in great variety, flint arrow points, bronze spear heads and numerous other things, all valuable to the student. In another room are specimens of the various kinds of clay used in the manufacture of porcelain, some exhibits of foreign pottery including Rockingham and Majolica ware, a blue jug from Can's factory New York, also parian busts of Shakespeare and Grant, floor tiles, plain and coloured. In another part of the building are models of light-houses, breakwaters, railways, cranes, bridges, docks, water-wheels, &c.

The museum is excellently arranged and well repays an inspection.

At seven o'clock p.m. the presentation of diplomas took place in the lecture hall of the university, which was literally crowded with the students and their friends. The ceremony was commenced by the president, Mr. H. Kato, addressing the students and presenting the graduates with their diplomas, after which a student, Mr. Suzuki, replied, saying:—

GENTLEMEN:—You have instituted the ceremony of this evening on our account, and have conferred upon us an honourable degree. What honour can exceed that which we enjoy on this present occasion? That we, without any claim to such assistance, have been permitted to enjoy the advantages of a university education, is due to the magnanimity of his Majesty the Mikado; and that we have successfully reached the end of the prescribed course of study, we are deeply indebted to the cordial support and encouragement of the directors of this institution, and to the untiring efforts of the professors. While we rejoice, we do not forget the goal of life has not yet been reached, and we must still move on in order to retain what we have already gained. After blossoming there yet remains for herbs and trees to ripen their fruit; neglected for a single morning their blossoms may wither, or their fruits be blasted. Against such a result we must be on our guard. We have now simply blossomed; what our fruits are to be, the future must determine. By persistent effort we trust that the blossoms may be saved and that they may ripen into glorious fruit. It is our earnest hope that the Directors and Professors will not cease to cherish the good-will which they have thus far shown us, and that they will follow us in the future with the same interest they have manifested for us in the years now ended.

With these words, gentlemen, we offer our most sincere thanks for the honour of the present occasion.

Dr. Hatoyama then delivered an address of great eloquence, keeping his audience entranced for over three quarters of an hour. We regret our inability to publish this gentleman's speech in full, as it was delivered extempore and in the Japanese language. The doctor dwelt upon the "efficiency of law," touching upon the power of the law in civilizing the world, and drawing a graphic picture of the condition of those countries where the people are savage and recognise no law, and of the horrible scenes which shook France to its very centre during the revolution of 1789, when the people threw off all regard for the law. This state of affairs Dr. Hatoyama compared with the happy condition of those countries where the people are governed by good and effective laws, giving illustrations from all parts of the world. By an easy transition the speaker then took his hearers to countries where there is "too much law:" where laws regarding the religious tenets of the people are so severe as to amount to persecution: where laws interfere with the legitimate commerce of the people: where laws foster an exorbitant system of usury, fix the prices of merchandise, and the rates of wages. The learned doctor then commented on "laws infringing upon the freedom of thought." Here the speaker, turning round so as to face several prominent members of the cabinet who were seated in the hall, attacked the policy of the government in fearless and fluent language. The doctor concluded his address,—in the course of which he was frequently interrupted by the applause of the audience—by a few parting words to the graduating students.

Professor Houghton was the next to address the students. He said:—

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN.—The occasion that calls us together gives an unmistakable direction to the current of our thoughts. We are all irresistibly led to think of the future. A goodly number of young men from all parts of Japan have

just completed, in spite of all obstacles, the highest and most elaborate course of study that their native land affords. I take great pleasure, my young friends and pupils, in adding my congratulations to those of your many well-wishers, and consider myself fortunate in having an opportunity of saying something to you at this turning-point of your lives. And it is, indeed, a great turning-point—greater perhaps than many of you will meet again. Your life of pupilage is over. Henceforth you are to take your places, not among the taught, but, in the highest sense, among the teachers. And while this is true of all who in any country leave the college of their training, it is in a peculiar sense true of you young Japanese in Young Japan. You are orientals brought up as occidentals. You are, for better or worse, committed to a new and strange system. You are the apostles of a new faith, and the responsibility that rests upon you, corresponds with the unique character of your position.

Foreigner as I am, comparative stranger still to Japanese modes of thought and ways of looking at the world, I am well aware that I have little claim to act the part of your adviser. I have not the presumption to think myself capable of laying before you a scheme of Japanese domestic and foreign policy. Such an attempt would be as much beyond my powers as it would be inappropriate at this time. Recognizing that you know far better than I ever can, the details of what is practicable or impracticable in Japanese society, I intend to throw out only a few general hints, which—if they do not prove to be of much use to you—will at least indicate my cordial good will and sympathy with you in the great work your country will demand of you during the next thirty, forty or fifty years.

The position of the graduates of this university, as I have already said, is anomalous. Your country's condition is anomalous. Your fathers were born into a society secluded, calm and sleeping. The despotic policy of centuries had shut them off from the bustle, the anxieties,—yes, and the strife of western progress. They cared nothing for it, for they knew nothing of it. In serene self-complacency, they were living on, absorbed in their pleasant dreams, though the night was far spent. But suddenly all is changed. The booming of Perry's cannon thrills the sleepers. The dawn begins. The evil things of the night, in their trepidation, offer but a half-hearted resistance to the resolute attack of the newly-awakened people. With surprising rapidity the land is cleared of evils that other nations have spent centuries in uprooting. The sun of civilisation begins to shine; and here you find yourselves in the bright morning of the "Land of Sunrise." Your fathers have pulled down the old edifice and have begun to build a new one in a different style. They have declared most emphatically that the old system was bad and that the western view of human society is in the main the right one. Westerners, of course, think it is the right one. The authorities of this university evidently think so too; and you, by putting yourselves under their direction for a series of years have shown, in the clearest manner, your approval of Occidentalism.

The overthrow of an old order and the establishment of a new one in its place is no new event in history. Many nations have passed through such a revolution. But what makes the case of Japan so remarkable is the astonishing suddenness of the overthrow and the complete contrast between the old and the new systems. The ideas at the bottom of the two are totally different. The old aimed at repose, or, as you would now call it, stagnation; while the new aims at improvement through unremitting activity. The old was aristocratic and feudal; the new industrial and essentially popular. In a word, the two systems are as opposite to each other as the sides of the globe that are their homes. Out of this unlikeness spring great difficulties. The first impulse naturally is to introduce in a wholesale, mechanical way all sorts of institutions which western countries especially prize. I shall not venture upon the dangerous ground of politics. I shall let others decide on the adaptability to Japan of the western representative system, jury system, plans of coöperation etc. Army and navy, railroads, telegraphs and steamships, I shall not attempt to discuss. These are all things of great importance, but there is no danger that they will be neglected. Rather, perhaps, the danger lies in their being too exclusively thought of, while more fundamental matters may suffer neglect. I speak as a foreigner, but it seems to me that the graduates of this university have, just now, more important matters on hand even than politics and that in this respect you

would do wisely to "let well-enough alone." The seeds of that civilisation which we all approve of have sprung up and the tender plants are doing well. A turmoil of the elements would surely injure them. They are too young and delicate to endure the storms of strife indefinitely prolonged. Besides, there are external dangers. Would it not be better to foster the precious growth and spread it far and wide until the whole land shall bloom with its beauty?

No,—in this age of formation and transition, you will have to play the noble part of diffusers of knowledge. You have lighted your torches at the great western blaze and it becomes your solemn duty to carry the light into every nook and corner of the land. How are you going to do this, do you ask? That is a question for you to answer; and here you will find ample scope for originality. Most nations have borrowed much of their civilisation. Greece was largely indebted to the East; Rome still more to Greece, and the modern western nations to Rome and to each other in turn. But each has developed the same material in its own way and adapted it to its own conditions. There is much external, coat-and-trouser resemblance among them, especially since the means of communication have become so complete. But each has preserved its own individuality, its own national traits. Why should not Japan do this? The traditions of 2500 years are a heritage not to be lightly cast aside. By general consent they contain much that is admirable. On the other hand no one contends that everything connected with the western system is admirable. Here then is the problem:—to retain what is good in the old, to select what is good in the new and to combine it all into one harmonious, practical whole, that shall, without doing violence to the rooted convictions of the people, gently bring them up to a higher plane. This is a great work; sufficient to occupy the best energies of the best minds in the world, and the successful accomplishment of it, which we all so fervently hope for, will entitle its promoters to lasting fame and the gratitude of all nations.

But experience shows that those who would succeed in grand undertakings must make great sacrifices. In acting the part of diffusers and assimilators of knowledge most of you will have to make one sacrifice which may seem a hardship. It will scarcely be possible to assimilate and create at the same time. There will be little opportunity for the present generation to labor at the confines of human knowledge. The proud title of "Master of those who know" is one which circumstances prevent you from working for. Original investigation must largely be relinquished. Selection, combination and adaptation will demand your attention chiefly. There is abundant evidence in Japanese history that this has been done well in the past. Nature has placed these islands in such a position that their inhabitants have been obliged to borrow and adapt the ideas and practices of the neighbouring continent. How thoroughly they have made them their own is obvious to all. At the same time necessity has bred here a remarkable aptitude for the very thing needed, and hence it happens that you find yourselves extraordinarily equipped for the extraordinary work before you.

It is impossible to find a parallel to the present Japanese epoch. Other nations have borrowed ideas and institutions substantially in harmony with their own. Their borrowings, too, though of immense importance, have had reference, principally, to social and literary polish and refinement. "Captive Greece," says Horace, "took captive her fierce conqueror and brought arts into rude Latium." Italy, at the Renaissance, exerted a similar influence over the other nations of Europe. That remote period when China and Korea began to exert such a powerful influence over Japan seems to be the nearest approach to the present state of things. Yet there are great differences. Japan was by no means so far advanced a thousand or more years ago as she was thirty years ago. Moreover, everything imported from the neighbouring continent was readily assimilated by a people of similar origin and surroundings. It was a comparatively simple matter. There was one model and that close by, possessing kindred manners and customs. The ideas and practices brought over had been generated in eastern air and soil. They were hardly foreign and the transplanting was easy. But to amalgamate the east and the west—the spirit of eager, active utilitarianism with that of calm, imaginative, moral speculation, is clearly a very serious task. Then, too, there are half a dozen nations, each with its own phase of the western system, each, of course, claiming that its own institutions are the best, and holding them up

before you for adoption. The only wise course to pursue is the one that has been pursued, namely, the eclectic,—which chooses the most desirable features from all, taking account of the tenacity of long-cherished ideas and of the injurious effect of sudden and violent changes.

Put in this general way, this may appear simple enough, but the difficulty is to deal with specific cases. Here you will find use for all and more than all the training you have received. Perhaps you will find that there is a great deal to learn outside of the books of philosophy and science from which you have derived your knowledge. "To make judgment wholly by the rules of books," says Bacon, "is the humor of a scholar." "Studies perfect nature, and are perfected by experience." It is simply impossible for young men to be versed at once in books and in practical life. Books at best show us how to interpret some of the facts of experience. But it is of immense importance to us to have these facts interpreted and put in due relation with others and with themselves—hence the great value of books. In your case, owing to the exceptional circumstances, experience will be almost your only guide. You cannot tell how any given plan will work until you try it and many of your most fondly cherished plans will possibly fail. But, according to a trite saying, men may grow wise through failure, and even if you do not succeed at last, you will have the satisfaction of feeling that you have done what you could and that your efforts can never be wholly lost.

What I have said might be taken as addressed to those of you who may in future occupy positions of public trust and governmental responsibility. Some of you will, no doubt, occupy such positions. Such will have especially favorable opportunities of promoting the national progress. But I wish particularly to remind you that, without being a public officer, a man can labor very effectively for the welfare of his country. One of the glories of the very system which you are seeking to establish here, is the great scope that it affords to, and the dependence it places upon, every kind of private enterprise. This is the leaven that leavens the otherwise inert popular mass. It is the chief source of wealth and prosperity. It is what makes such governments as those of Great Britain and the United States possible and successful. It is one of the principal tests of national advancement. It has been the making of the west and I hope it may prove the renewing of Japan and of the oriental world. There are already encouraging signs that private individuals here are catching this spirit. It is something which every individual among you can aid in extending and that too with assurance of comparatively speedy and certainly beneficial results. Through the press, social, scientific, literary and educational societies, you can make your influence felt in whatever part of the country you may live. Statistics show that the number of people in Japan who cannot read and write is smaller than in any other country in proportion to the population. It is only 10 per cent.; while in Germany even it is 12; in the United States 20, England 33, France somewhat greater, China 50 and India 95.\* Here then is a fortunate fact for you who are to be diffusers of every species of knowledge. The soil is all ready to receive good seed. Sow it then broadcast and a rich harvest will reward you.

You see that I take it for granted that you are in earnest for I believe you are. The spirit of patriotism, which, though at times mistaken and too narrowly sectional, has always animated the samurai class, and which illuminates many a dark page of Japanese history, is your noble inheritance. Cosmopolitan as your training has been, and liable on that account, as some of your countrymen have feared, to smother the sacred flame, I believe that it still burns as brightly as ever and only the more purely. Let me warn you, however, against what can smother it,—self indulgence can do it. For in that dissolution of the moral nature which self indulgence causes, patriotism, always rightly considered among the first of moral virtues, is sapped together with the man's self-respect and there remains but the rubbish of a man. Upon the breaking-down of an old order of society, when many of the old moral checks are destroyed, there is apt to ensue a period of laxity and selfishness. Individualism, or rather egoism, seems to the short-sighted to be the only thing left to them, and this too often takes the form of unclean vice. It is greatly to the honor of this institution that at such a time the moral tone of its students is so high. In this respect, I am convinced that Tokio

\* See Spofford's American Almanac, 1881.

University compares very favorably with similar institutions in the west. You have shown yourselves far-sighted enough to see that the egoism of vice,—the selfish indulgence in those immoralities that beset young men the world over—is ruinous to mind and body. But there is a higher and subtler form of individualism which is more likely to attract the best trained minds among you. I mean the pursuit of study as an end in itself, the wrapping-up of yourselves in the mantle of self-culture, while you leave to others the irksome task of diffusing knowledge among your countrymen. Perhaps, too, such a tendency might be strengthened by traditions of eastern scholarship. But your country has need of you. Every country needs its young men, but none so much as Japan now needs hers. The future of your country rests largely with your generation. This is no time for mopers. Every head and every hand is needed.

There will be discouragements. Masses of people move at best but slowly and those who try to move them are generally not credited with the best motives. With all your organization, writing, translating and exertions of every kind, you must be prepared for waiting, self-questionings, misunderstandings wilful and involuntary, attacks and controversies. The results obtained may seem poor and meagre compared with your expenditure of vital energy. In the midst of such turmoil and vexation, the traditions of the Tokugawa period will have an additional charm. Whatever else the men of those days had or had not,—you will say,—they at least had rest! As one of you has happily expressed it, it will be to you as Paradise before the fruit of the tree of knowledge was tasted. But the fruit has been tasted. The gates of that paradise, if such it was, are forever closed. The state of repose has been irrevocably exchanged for unrest. It is the price we pay for progress. In your case not "fame" as Milton said, but patriotism must be

"The spur that the clear spirit doth raise  
To scorn delights and live laborious days."

I have not hesitated to point out difficulties. You may think I have dwelt upon them too much. I certainly would not have you lose sight of them; neither would I have you overlook your advantages. Youth and vigor, the two most precious possessions in the world, are yours. And youth and vigor are nature's weapons against difficulty. You are a chosen company and your surroundings are such that each individual has a much greater field of influence and hence of usefulness than the college-bred men of other countries find. Having once broken so completely with the feudalism and prescription of the past, you will find the land clear of many obstacles that still threaten the peace of Europe. The experience of other countries, if wisely taken advantage of, is your invaluable aid, and the last results of the best thought of the world encounter less prejudice here than in the very localities which gave them birth. The work itself is inspiring. It is nothing less than the welding together of the eastern and western worlds. You lead the van in the regeneration of the Orient by spreading here the only system that can redeem it. Wealth, prosperity, perfect national independence and true civilization lie in the popular enlightenment that you must strive for. And in your high endeavours, you have the hearty good wishes of all good men.

Professor KIKUCHI was then introduced and said:—

GENTLEMEN.—I address myself chiefly to the old and present students of the Tokio Daigaku. I lay claim to no great wisdom or depth of thought in my observations but such as they are, they are the result of my own experience and as such will find sympathy in some and will forewarn others. It is not many years since I myself stood in the position which some of you stand in to-day, and therefore the feeling that I speak of is mostly what you feel to-day.

I trust that you will not think because you have received your diplomas, that your education is over. I do not know how it is in other departments, but in my own the course provided by the university, is only just such as to introduce the students into the subject, not so much to teach them the subject but to let them see how much there is to know, how much to discover, to point out how and where to study, and to give the necessary foundation for proceeding therein. What the university course does for any special science, is about equivalent to what reading and writing is to general knowledge. Let us remember what Newton said:—"I do not know how I may appear to

others but to my own self, I seem like a little body picking up pebbles by the shore of a vast impenetrable ocean of truth." If it was so with Newton, the discoverer of the law of gravitation, by which the economy of the whole universe may be said to have been explained, what must we, little pigmies, think of ourselves? It is therefore absolutely necessary that you should now proceed on the path pointed out to you and not turn away into bypaths and quit the road to science. Here we are met by a painful feeling, a feeling which however disagreeable it may be, we will do well to look in the face, for it will do us no good by shirking. You know that the animals, the lower they are in the scale of creation, arrive the sooner at maturity. Take a chicken just hatched, it is ready to walk out and pick food almost directly and very soon arrives at maturity; and look at dogs which are not quite so quick in developing. You see how much slower a human being is in developing, but though the one arrives at maturity sooner, there is no comparison between them when fully developed. So it is with different races of man. Aino boys, I am told, are very quick and intelligent, but they stop at a certain stage and never get beyond that. The American Indian child does very well at the primary school but he can't get beyond that, and when he goes back to his tribe he is as wild as ever. In Japan, this fact has been noticed. These words show that precocity is no criterion of the final development, or rather it is a proof of the lower degree of development. Now both in my own experience and that of my colleagues, I think our students would compare very favourably with those of any country. Every one of the students sent out has done honour to Japan. But how shall we compare say ten or twenty years hence with those whom we have beaten or whom we could beat in our collegiate course? We call ourselves old men at forty; foreigners count themselves yet young at fifty.

If, as modern science proves, the amount of our intellectual capacity depends upon the quantity and quality of brain-matter; if the ability of grasping complex ideas or higher co-ordinations depends upon the constitution of the brain, and if the structure of the brain can only be changed by successive small increments which, like our differential being, are infinitely small; if their accumulation produces a finite change; if it takes time to effect this change; then if all this be true we have reason to believe that what is said of our race quickly developing and being better capable, when comparatively young, of grasping some of the high and comprehensive truths of science, yet will not develop to such an extent as will compare with an European or an American is also true. I cannot of course absolutely affirm that this is so. But as far as we have gone, experience confirms this idea, and if this is true I say it is very disagreeable, and according to modern scientific ideas I think that it is true. But of course this thought ought not to discourage us, and make us throw up our work, but rather to make us work harder. I do not mean that every Japanese is inferior to every European or American. On the contrary, many Japanese are superior to many Europeans, and between the lowest of both there is not very much to choose. But I mean the highest type of one is necessarily inferior to the highest type of the other. But they did not arrive at this stage at once: it was only by centuries and centuries of hard work and toil. If so, then must we also labour to come up to them. Who knows how soon we may be able to come up to them?

There are many other things which I must speak of as standing in the way of our proceeding to perfect ourselves in our studies. The first I may mention is the want of proper instruments, and of books of reference. In all the higher studies, frequent references have to be made not only to books but to pamphlets, magazines, and transactions of various scientific societies. Any important discoveries or independent researches come out in this form, and often there is no other way of getting at them. Now of such works of reference we have no supply or scarcely any. Some of these defects can be remedied by ordering them abroad and carrying on exchanges &c. extensively. Others can only be obtained at the sales of large libraries and for these it is necessary to have some one always on the look-out. To do this is the duty of the Mombusho for we have no time, as we have all to earn our bread and butter. In Europe and America, men after they have graduated continue their education for many years longer. We are all men without property, and we have got to live. Besides we mature soon: In Europe and America, the students are either rich or provision is made by means of fellowships and scholarships.

There is a lack of sympathy with us, and an apathy in criticising. Judicious criticism tends to make us more careful and more eager: rivalry makes us more diligent. There is a general want of scientific spirit: in daily conversation, in newspapers, in novels, in everything: just like our losing interest in politics. As the graduates gradually become imbued with the importance of these truths, this evil will decrease gradually. I therefore ask of you to be one of the little band of workers in the field of science: little now but gradually growing larger and larger, penetrating into every class of society and diffusing a scientific spirit everywhere.

Dr. Baelz said:—

GENTLEMEN:—As one of the foreign teachers at this medical school I should like to address a few words to the young doctors who have this day received their diplomas.

On the meaning of to-day's proceedings in general so much that is excellent has been said already that it is not necessary for me to say anything about them; and so I can go directly to my subject.

I turn especially towards you, gentlemen, whom I have had the pleasure for several years of calling my scholars, and whom I see here for the last time in great numbers. After the many flattering remarks which you have heard to-day, an earnest word is also appropriate. And even if what I say does not appear to be rosy, still it comes from my heart. Gentlemen, with to-day's festival, the first great part of your life, namely that of your education, and of a period of active study, has been finished satisfactorily as your presence here to-day testifies. You should take up and appropriate as your own mental property that which generations before you have learned, found and experienced.

Now that you have fulfilled this duty, the second part of life's volume is to-day brought under consideration. The second great chapter is that of activity, production and of independence, and I hope this division will be of long duration. You all know, gentlemen, that medical science in Japan enjoyed, until lately, a very moderate degree of consideration; and it is only of late that it has risen into prominence.

It is to this last circumstance, and also to the want of competent physicians, that you owe such favourable situations at your age, of which equally old collegians in other lands can scarcely dream. Do not forget, gentlemen, that the honour thus conferred upon you, brings with it the obligation of showing yourselves worthy of it.

Nothing would be more unfortunate now if you, who are in the possession of a sure future, were to lay your hands in your laps and lead a fruitless life. Now, gentlemen, you have finished your studies at this university, but still another and greater study opens itself before you—the study of the Book of Life. There is the real spring, there is an unlimited amount to learn, and the physician has to acquire most in everyday life. He has not, as for example the astronomer, to do with fixed bodies or fixed rules, but with ever changing interiors and ever changing individuals. It is more especially your duty, gentlemen, that you should study, look after and foster the true and real life of your people, namely the intellectual.

You have been brought up in the contemplation of a, so to say, quite different world to that of your fathers, and which has been brought over to you quite unexpectedly. You are almost strangers to the spirit of your people. You must now study this spirit, without the knowledge and understanding of which the successful treatment of disease is quite impossible. And along with this activity will come that of civilization.

It is often said that in Japan all intercourse with the past has been broken up, and that in the place of a wrong civilization, another and true one has stepped in. These two facts are put down as being without doubt. Gentlemen, I cannot accept this rendering. A civilization, the product of centuries of political, social, and spiritual life, is not to be compared to a tree which men can dig out, and supply its place with another. It is a part of the people itself, and every attempt at alteration, must already have of itself some root, otherwise it will certainly fail. Japan should take up critically that which comes out of western lands, for there is much emanating from local European circumstances which is not at all desirable. Japan should appropriate the elements of this new culture, by mixing them with these in its possession and work them into a homogeneous whole.

And here, gentlemen, you can help greatly, as you, as physicians, get a deeper insight into the innermost life of the people.



Naturally you must not remain behind hand, but always keep up an active intercourse with the centre of intellectual life, and, as doctors, maintain an active connection with the college at which you were educated and from which you have just come. May you learn with love and reverence to regard this your University, as we in Europe feel even in old age for our schools and universities.

And when you look back with joy to the years which you passed here, then think also of your teacher, who came from far off lands and who tried with all his knowledge and will to form you into capable men in your profession.

When you have become the proficient physicians of your country, when you become good doctors, when you apply medical knowledge and medical science to the relief of the ills of your fellow men, and towards the improvement of the mental and bodily welfare of individuals and of the whole race, gentlemen, you can rest assured, that your teacher will always have a friendly remembrance of you.

His Excellency Fukuoka Kotai, minister of the educational department, having briefly addressed the assembly, an adjournment was made to the refreshment rooms where a choice collation was provided and done ample justice to.

The following are the names of the students who have graduated:—

**LAW.**—Takaaki Kato, Masakata Akiyama, Masamichi Aikawa, Gentaro Okada, Teichiro Matsuno, Takesaburo Yu, Mitsuyoshi Suzuki, Sakichi Sakaguchi, Sansei Uchida.

**CHEMISTRY.**—Toku Hisata, Seizo Imai, Tsuneshichiro Kato, Gentaro Takahashi.

**BIOLOGY.**—Isao Iijima, Tomotaro Iwakawa, Chiujiro Sasaki.

**MECHANICAL ENGINEERING.**—Tomokichi Yoshida, Riosaku Kuri.

**CIVIL ENGINEERING.**—Naoki Shiraiishi, Riutaro Nomura, Riota Hara, Sanichi Shimomura, Tesuo Tsuchida, Ninsao Ishida.

**GEOLOGY.**—Takao Fujitani.

**MINING AND METALLURGY.**—Rentaro Hotta.

**MEDICINE.**—Moriji Miura, Juntaro Takahashi, Teichiro Nakahama, Tsune Ibe, Tasuku Sato, Horin Katayama, Rintaro Mori, Tasuku Kono, Masanao Koike, Konosuke Kumagaye, Naokichi Yamagata, Kichiro Ihara, Ken Taniguchi, Ruitaro Sano, Genichiro Narasaka, Tsunesaburo Kikuchi, Riotei Niimiya, Bunsuke Jimbo, Iisaku Uwosumi, Kohei Nagamachi, Jo Yeguchi, Masamichi Nakamura, Yugen Morinaga, Nobutoshi Iida, Kuwango Shimada, Kuwakusho Kako, Nakaki Yamagata, Yoshichiro Yonomoto.

**PHARMACEUTICS.**—Masata Hino, Riujiun Tahara, Kageakira Magarifuji, Nobu Machida, Jiro Fujikawa, Kuwanmo Saito, Shuzo Matsuo, Kuwanchu Omaye, Yoshinori Katayama.

**POLITICAL ECONOMY AND PHILOSOPHY.**—Seiichi Suyeoka.

**POLITICAL ECONOMY AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY.**—Kumaso Tsuboi, Keiroku Tsuzuki.

**PHILOSOPHY AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY.**—Kojiro Matsuda.

**POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY AND POLITICAL ECONOMY.**—Harugoro Kano.

**JAPANESE AND CHINESE.**—Inagi Tanaka.

A LADY writing from Hakodate thus describes the scenery:—

"The woods are lovely—a perfect fairy land. There is no foliage in the south to be compared with the foliage here. I never saw or even dreamed of anything so lovely. There are tall cedar-trees, with here and there a maple or a fir-tree (there are maple woods, too, and groves of firs and pines, but the cedar-tree is more numerous and more beautiful). The underbrush is not too thick, though sufficient to shut out the sunshine. The cool, green light is delightful. The ground is literally covered with tiny green plants and lovely ferns, varied by a stone covered with moss, or a great brown rock protruding above the green carpet. Here may be seen a beautiful vine entwined in wreaths about a tall, straight tree, or partially covering an otherwise ugly and jutting one: there grow ferns soft and beautiful, helping to complete the lovely panorama."

## THE EARTHQUAKE AT 6 A.M. ON JULY 5th, 1881.

THIS earthquake is worthy of notice on account of the very clear manner in which the records of it, as given by seismograph, show that the motion of the ground varied in direction.

Near to the commencement of the shock the motion was N. 112° E. One and a half seconds after this, the direction of motion appears to have been N. 50 E. In three-fourths of a second more it gradually changed to a direction N. 145° E., and after a similar interval, to N. 62° E. Half a second after this, it was N. 132° E., and four seconds later the motion was again in the original direction namely N. 112° E.

These particular directions of motion have been selected because they were so definitely indicated. They were obtained by means of a large double bracket seismograph writing on a smoked glass plate which, at the time of the shock, was drawn horizontally. Side by side with this record, two bracket ring seismographs gave indications of the same movements. Although, with a considerable expenditure of time and care it is theoretically possible from the indications of these two seismographs to deduce a resultant motion similar to that which was given by the double bracket instrument, the smallness of the records rendered such an operation practically impossible.

There appear to have been at some portions of the shock not more than four vibrations per second; at other portions there may have been as many as ten. The greatest amplitude of motion does not appear to have reached one millimetre.

During the latter portion of the shock a lever spring instrument gave indications of a slight vertical motion.

A record of this description, assuming the double bracket to have been correct in its indications, and I have no reason to believe that it was not so, shows how valueless the records of seismographs giving definite directions may some times be. Time observations made at stations widely separated appear to be the most certain means of obtaining the direction in which an earthquake is propagated. Assuming that our earthquakes are produced by the faulting of rocky strata, reasons for believing which I have often given, we see that the jolting and distortion which takes place during the formation of a fault may produce normal and transverse vibrations, separately or simultaneously; and that these vibrations may succeed each other with considerable irregularity.

The earthquake here referred to, is probably the result of an extremely irregular action of this description producing normal, transverse, and compound motions.

The same earthquake was recorded by several other instruments which I have placed in Yokohama, Tokio, Chiba and Kisarazu.

A discussion of the indications obtained at these places I withhold until another time.

JOHN MILNE.

Tokio, July 20th, 1881.

## No. 36, NOTIFICATION OF THE DAIOKWAN.

It is hereby notified that the new criminal code and criminal procedure act will come into force on the 1st day of January 1882.

(Signed) SANJO SANETOMI,  
Daijo Daijin.

July 8th of the 14th year of Meiji.

## THE PAPER CURRENCY OF JAPAN.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun*, commenting upon the letter with this title addressed by "T.W." to *The Economist*, says:—

"The estimated sum of 150,000,000 yen of paper money is fairly correct; and the assertion that simply reducing the volume of an inconvertible currency is useless, as the cause of disease is quality not quantity, is right. The author of the letter then refers to the sale of specie, official trading, and a foreign loan, in words which correctly convey our own people's opinions on the same subjects. He may be said to have exhausted these points, but we have a few words to say about them. First, with regard to the sale of specie we know the government are fully aware of the inexpediency of such a measure, and appreciate the folly of attempting to restore the value of a currency of 150,000,000 by disbursing their 20,000,000 of specie in a purchase of part. "T.W.'s" argument is, therefore, superfluous on this point. It is true there were two or three instances of the government selling specie; but their object was to frustrate the schemes of some over clever persons who were believed to be speculating in order to injure the currency by purchasing specie which could not be forthcoming. This action was, however, opposed to economical principles; it was adopted as a temporary remedy and resulted, as the writer says, in the benefit of a few speculators, no one else gaining by it. Since then we have never heard anything about the sale of coin, so that the argument of the writer falls to the ground, for, however cogent it may be, it does not apply to the government's policy though it may reflect upon the past acts of some of the officials.\*

"Second, with regard to official trading. The government have not willingly engaged in trade, doing so only to encourage the people to develop production; and for these purposes the government did engage in trade and, in addition, established works, factories, and training places. This action has no connection at all with currency or its remedy; it was undertaken to improve industry; still the absurdity of the government engaging in unsuitable business which injured private enterprise and impeded the progress of the country, was early perceived, attracted the attention of thinkers, and has been exposed by public opinion. The consequence of this has been that the policy is changed, and no further fear exists of official competition in trade in the future. Moreover, the minister of trade and agriculture had issued his notification before the writer had given his opinion which has, therefore, no longer any application.

"Third, with regard to a foreign loan, we can only say that any such scheme is a thing of the past. When the suggestion was made

\* This statement is not quite accurate. The transactions to which the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* refers are no doubt those in which Mr. Godai was interested, and in which 1,800,000 yen of treasury specie played its part. In November 1880, H. E. Okuma told Mr. Kennedy, H.B.M. chargé d'affaires, that during the past two years twelve millions in paper had been withdrawn from circulation, and an equal sum of specie taken from the "reserve fund" had been placed on the market. True, this statement is at variance with previous reports sanctioned by H.E. Okuma and published; and the discrepancy has never been explained though we are confident it is readily susceptible of explanation; but the circumstance must surely be within our contemporary's knowledge as an instance of the sale of specie referred to.—Ed. J. G.

many able men denounced it, and the matter was fully discussed in the cabinet, dismissed from further consideration, and there is no chance of it being again thought of.

"On all these points, therefore, the government are well informed; and no benefit is conferred by the writer's ideas on such subjects, although we readily admit the sincerity of his motives with regard to our country."—July 11.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun*, continuing its comments on the letter of "T.W." to *The Economist*, enters upon a line of argument extremely difficult to follow, the point being involved and obscured in matter seemingly irrelevant. The views of the Japanese press on questions of this character are, however, too interesting to be ignored; and we prefer to lay before our readers as clear a translation as circumstances will permit.

"Thus far we have encountered 'T.W.' in his objections to the policy of the government, and we have now to examine his propositions for restoring the value of the currency. His argument is that depreciation is caused by quality not quantity. Very good. We agree with him on that point. Then he adds that as a matter of fact there is none too much currency in Japan, and if it appears that it is to continue to consist of irredeemable paper it will soon seem there is too little, and inflation will be as loudly called for as it was in America in 1873. This may be true. He further says the only remedy is to increase the amount of specie reserve, and to adopt resolute measures for that purpose. A writer of such knowledge who sees the cause of disease and, to some extent rightly, points out a remedy for it, is entitled to all praise.

"We agree with 'T.W.' in his assertion that the true remedy lies in increasing the metallic reserve: but one of his effectual means to this end is higher taxation. This is a perplexing statement to be made by a writer of so much knowledge, for he says, in an earlier part of his letter, that taxation seems to have attained its maximum in Japan, and that the blind obedience which enabled the Shogun and Daimio to take what they pleased of the people's products can no longer be expected. This statement proves this foreign writer clearly perceives the real condition of this country, for which we much admire him; but he suddenly changes his argument and asserts that the people being favoured with good crops for some years are not unable to endure increased taxation. This is an inconsistency. As the writer asserts, it is true taxation has reached its maximum and the people object to further imposts; therefore we fail to see the reasonableness of forcing new taxes because the crops are good. Indeed, if good crops were sufficient reason to levy new taxes, bad crops would be reason for their repeal, and the revenue, like the crops, would vary with natural laws. Then to apply taxes varying year by year according to the fruitfulness of the seasons to the reduction of the currency, cannot be considered either expedient or effectual. Moreover, taxation has been increased by a notification issued last November. Does 'T.W.' not know this? Local taxation, which formerly was limited to one-fifth of the land tax, is now one-third. This is not a very great increase, still in many ken the people seem to suffer from the additional burden put upon them. How, then, can further taxation be borne? We think 'T.W.' well knew the impossibility of new taxes, but, unable to discover any other remedy, he seems to have

tried to mislead, for he proceeds to say there would be a little popular opposition to the measure at first, but ere long its opponents would feel that the reduction of paper is for their own benefit; and that, for the majority of them, it would, as was the case in Russia after the Crimean war, prove really advantageous. Fearing he may be mistaken in regard to the willingness of the people to bear additional taxes, he refers to Russia as an example. This is rash. Our countrymen have no participation in the political rights of this country, and the writer's attempt to arouse their patriotic spirit will not succeed. Is the writer able to convince the people that additional taxes will be faithfully applied to the reduction of the currency? He is not. Does he not know that our government is not constitutional? In other words, does he especially refer to Russia after the Crimean war knowing our government to be an absolute government? The writer does not, we regret, understand the real spirit of our people. [Note. The obscurity of these passages is not due to translation. The same ambiguity and irrelevancy attach to the original, which is almost unintelligible to the Japanese reader. Translator J. G.]

"'T.W.' then asserts that increased taxes would necessarily compel the idle to work, and their industrious spirit would be strengthened, thus giving expression to a mistaken notion that fresh taxes will not only reduce the amount of paper money but confer an immeasurable benefit upon the country. We do not know upon what class 'T.W.' intends to levy new taxes, but judging from his allusion to the crops as supplying the means, we take it the farmers are to be taxed. Does 'T.W.' then place Japanese farmers on a level with roving tribes, or with the Hindoos who prefer ease to the neglect of husbandry? The case is essentially different. The burden upon Japanese farmers is not lighter as compared with farmers in Europe and America, but rather heavier. They have been just released from the suffering they sustained under the feudal system; even under that condition the agricultural resources of the country are so developed that little remains to be done in that direction consequent upon the natural industrious habits of the people. Therefore it is necessary for the benefit of the country to lighten the burden upon the farmers and improve their position, and eventually apply capital and labour to manufactures and industries. Instead, however, of advocating measures of this importance, 'T.W.' wishes to force heavier burdens upon the agricultural class to stimulate their industry; advice equivalent to that which recommends the oppression of a tyrannical government as a means to develop the spirit of the people. In such reasoning few thinking men will agree."—July 12.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* continues to comment upon the letter of "T.W." to *The Economist*, and in this portion of its review alludes in an unusually pointed manner to official trading and its effect upon commerce generally.

"Another remedy suggested by 'T.W.' for the restoration of the value of currency is the encouragement of production. Private enterprise and individual exertion are indispensable to extricate the nation from its difficulties, and for this purpose good laws impartially administered are necessary. Arguments of this character are undeniable in

support of the policy of developed industry, but when applied to the restoration of currency we may doubt their expediency. We, however, may take the writer to mean this:—If the production of the country be promoted its wealth will increase and sufficient gold and silver will be paid into the treasury to transform the currency from inconvertible to exchangeable. But, as a matter of fact, the first and direct object is the promotion of production; the secondary and indirect object being the restoration of currency to its normal value, and this must be borne in mind in the subsequent comments we have to make.

"After mature and deliberate reflection upon the subject of our productions and industries since the Restoration, we find that every company or manufactory deserving of notice in any way, has been furnished with capital by the government, or it has been protected from all competition, or been endowed with special privileges by the same power. The consequence has been that any undertaking of private persons has been materially injured from its inception by the all-powerful influence and sustained opposition of protected companies, so much discouragement being caused thereby that private enterprise has been virtually extinguished. Examples of this are numerous; and especially in those cases where the government themselves have engaged in business the injury has been still more serious, because those officials in charge of the business, forgetting their true object, and desirous to display zeal in the service of the government, have acted with marked success in the furtherance of an apparent policy to overthrow all private undertakings. Knowledge of these things, no doubt, led 'T.W.' to allude to the mistake of government trading. Since last year the government have been convinced of the folly of official trading; and they have openly announced their desire to dispose of all government industries to those desirous of acquiring them; therefore, with the exception of a few railways, and direct exportation companies, there is no undertaking specially protected at present. The new department of agriculture and commerce is the outcome of government conviction that official trading and interference with private trade should be abolished; and that general encouragement and protection should be accorded to production. Time sufficient to prove the value of this policy has not elapsed; but judging from what we know of the department, its system, and the notifications emanating from it, the object plainly is to promote production and foster industry by good and impartial laws.

"This being the case, the second remedy suggested by 'T.W.' had been adopted before his allusion to it; but we remain unable to see what direct effect it will have upon the development of production; or how, indirectly, it can affect the currency; and fear the time is far distant when the latter object will be attained by these means.

"'T.W.' then adverts to improved means of transport as the third remedy for the currency, and says that to prepare good roads for this purpose is most important, the chief point being to construct them in such a manner that traffic should be quick and easy; and that the most necessary are short lines from the interior to ports on the coast. Now this plan relates to increased production also, but its connection with currency is exceedingly remote. The present government have long been engaged in converting steep, uneven, and winding roads into level lines, constructing bridges and doing other things

to improve transportation by land; while at the sea side they have built ports, light-houses, &c. Nothing that would facilitate transportation has escaped the attention of the government; and internal improvements innumerable have been carried out at the expense of the treasury, the local taxes, or of private subscribers. Among other efforts in this direction the industrial loan is being employed in extending railways and constructing harbours, on the completion of which our means of transport will be improved. The advice, therefore, is not necessary for our government may be said to have made great efforts in this direction long before 'T. W.'s' letter was written. Does 'T. W.' mean that railways should be constructed from the interior to the coast, and not mere ordinary roads? Of the value of railways our countrymen are well aware; a great railway company, the Nippon Tetsuda Kwaisha is already established, and we are informed of another to be called the Hokuriku Tetsudo Kwaisha, a private enterprise, but time must elapse before the works even approach completion. Moreover, the construction of great railways means the conversion of movable into fixed capital, a part of which flies to foreign countries for material. Then also railway extension means a change in the politico-economical policy of the nation. What will be that change? Is there no fear that measures for encouraging production may lead to the decline of production; and the policy which aims at the restoration of the value of the national currency tend to create still greater depreciation?"—*July 13.*

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* concludes its comments on the letter of "T. W." to *The Economist* as follows, ingeniously turning the tables and throwing the whole responsibility of currency depreciation upon foreign trade and the existing treaties.

"The result of our examination is this. The first of the measures proposed by 'T. W.', namely, increased taxation, cannot be adopted without adding to the existing burdens of the people. The second measure, development of production, is not calculated to yield any immediate benefit. And the third measure, the construction of roads, does not promise any directly beneficial result. The consequence is that none of 'T. W.'s' plans can be regarded as effective remedies for currency depreciation, although suited to the condition of the country itself: while the value of the suggestions is still smaller from the fact that the government had adopted them before the letter was written, and had proclaimed increased taxation in the form of higher local taxes and enhanced duty on saké, the sale of all officially conducted industries, the withdrawal of all official interference with trade, and the resolve to enforce strict economy in the administration, by which means 10,000,000 yen yearly is to be saved and applied to the reduction of paper. Unfortunately there is nothing beyond the mere declaration that the 10,000,000 will be applied in reducing currency: the method of reduction is not stated, and we are left in ignorance as to whether the surplus is actively used in reducing paper, or merely accumulated in the treasury as part of the reserve fund. We only know that depreciation has not stopped; the rise of prices is extraordinary and continuous; as a matter of fact the expenditure of the government increases in the ratio of prices, compelling the application of the 10,000,000 yen to cover the deficiency of

revenue. Financial difficulties grow with rapidity; improvement comes very slowly. We do not like to censure the government for their inability to apply the 10,000,000 of the professed surplus to the reduction of currency. Should they use money for that purpose the enlarged expenditure can only be met by further issues of inconvertible paper to the same extent. No additional mischief may result, but the position of the currency is hopeless. Recourse must be had to other remedies; but what are they? There is one which, to our great grief, we are prevented from adopting by the action of foreigners who ardently adhere to their self-interest. This measure is increased taxation and encouragement of production and industries. We do not mean increased taxes on the farmers, but higher customs duties. The customs returns show that in the last half-year of 1879 import duties amounted to 861,241 yen, and in the first half-year of 1880 they were 850,578 yen, a total of 1,711,809 yen. This sum is on a scale of 5 per cent. fixed by treaty, and if the duties were levied according to the old treaty, that is at 20 per cent., the sum would be 6,847,236 yen. This amount applied in reduction of currency would have considerable effect; but nothing can be done in this way until foreign governments agree to revise the treaties.

"We mean by encouragement of production and industries the introduction of foreign capital into Japan. We treated this question a few years ago, but the time being then unripe for such a scheme public opinion was against us and we were unable to see any prospect of the realisation of our projects. Now, however, to our great surprise, we have a writer of the same opinion on this point. He holds it to be mistaken policy not to permit the utilization of abundant foreign capital in Japan. That is our opinion also, though we differ with 'T. W.' in parts, one of which is his apparent omission to consider treaty revision. If we introduce foreign capital under the present treaties we fear much mischief will arise before any benefit is experienced. Therefore, if 'T. W.' is sincere in his intentions to give our people the benefit of foreign capital, why does he not ardently enter upon a discussion to show the necessity of treaty revision, first of all pointing out its expediency to his own government? If existing treaties are revised foreign capital will flow in, and taxation can be increased; and if then the currency is not restored we will humbly follow 'T. W.'s' directions: but while the present treaties remain in force it may be reasonably said that the impossibility of restoring the value of our currency is the consequence of the action of foreigners. Does 'T. W.' not know this? If he knows it but ignores its force, we may call him unkind, which we regret to do.

"At all events 'T. W.' has accurately stated the circumstances of our country, and his comments upon existing abuses are very near to the truth; though it cannot be said that the remedies he proposes are perfect. For example, he says what the people might do for themselves they are not inclined to do for the government which they regard rather as servants regard a master than as a family regards its chief, that their patriotism does not lead them to consider the affairs of the government as their own affairs, and they view the present financial crisis as something above or beyond their concern except as sufferers. On these points there is no doubt 'T. W.' rightly comprehends the feelings of our people. But why does he ignore

the causes which have brought about this condition of the people? We assert that one great cause of the difficulty in which the government are now placed is the absence in the people of that patriotism which leads them to regard the affairs of the government as their own affairs: and if this be admitted a plan for removing the popular apathy must be sought before seeking other remedies for the disease. If this cause be removed every symptom of the disease will disappear, and a cure will be effected. Why does not 'T. W.' suggest an expedient calculated to remove this cause? We much regret to find he does not. Alas! 'T. W.', think that this want of patriotism among our people is the consequence of the present system of government. In those countries where the people are excluded from political rights it is not strange to see them display a want of interest, an apathy, towards their government. All people living under absolute governments are in the same state as the Japanese are this day. Therefore, if 'T. W.' is earnest and sincere, let him impress upon our government the expediency of granting to the people their just political rights, and upon his own government the necessity for revision of the treaties. If he does this we will willingly follow him; but now, in a letter which is partly right, partly wrong, and imperfect as a whole, he fails to confer any benefit on this country.

"Our duty has compelled us to make these comments on 'T. W.'s' letter; and we conclude by thanking him for his sincerity and the regard he evinces towards our country."

We have followed with unusual interest our contemporary's comments on "T. W.'s" letter in *The Economist* of April 23rd. There is an earnestness of tone and evident soundness of purpose in the criticisms of the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun*, which command respect and deserve the most impartial consideration. The concluding paragraph is an appeal that cannot pass unheeded. Japanese little know the deep feeling of sympathy entertained by all foreigners who govern themselves towards the educated classes of this country, who are denied the exercise of the most elementary political rights. Men who belong to constitutional nations regard their political franchise as a possession without which all freedom of action and thought would be at an end, and life no longer worth living; and they look on with feelings of infinite regret that the government of this country, however able they are as an administrative and executive body, have not yet discovered that their true strength, and surest remedy for all difficulties, lies in a council of the people; those responsible men whose labour is the foundation and support of the empire. When M. VALOUIEFF, on behalf of the late CZAR of Russia, propounded certain questions to the Russian nobles with a view to obtaining their advice and assistance in the extrication of the empire from the difficulties in which it was involved, the nobles, with true dignity, replied, that they could only consent to act or advise by and with the authority of a national representative assembly chosen from all classes and from all parts of the empire. This excellent advice was unheeded, and what is the consequence? Disguise the fact as we may it stands before the world in all its hideous nakedness. Autocracy still reigns, but over what? A poverty stricken and oppressed people; over anarchy and murder: the throne tottering; the very empire verging upon destruction. Had the advice been taken, and the insidious coun-



cil disregarded of those whose only argument against national representation is the monstrous theory, self-contradictory, that the people are not fitted to represent themselves, the splendour of the absolute rule of the ROMANOFFS, sadly tarnished now, would have given place to the substantial fabric of a constitution resting upon the love of the people. Those concessions which could have been voluntarily, gracefully, and gradually made years ago must now be made perforce to appease the Demon of Discord to whom a burdened people are compelled to turn for relief as to their only friend.

Let us not be misunderstood. While we condemn absolute and personal government we do not advocate nihilism. A plague on all their houses, we cry; but no man who has the least self-respect can ever tolerate the government of the few who have, metaphorically speaking, seized or usurped the power which they employ to prevent the great body of the people from exercising their undeniable right of national representation.—  
July 14.

## Correspondence.

### THE PORONAI RAILWAY.

We are indebted to a correspondent who has visited Yezo recently for the following valuable information concerning the Poronai railway:—

"The subject of a system of cheap yet substantial railways for Japan deserves, and is receiving, more and more attention as the necessity for railways between the chief points in the main-land becomes more apparent. It is evident that neither the government nor private capitalists are in a proper condition to undertake the construction of lines costing a large amount per mile. The American plan would seem to be the one suited to the present necessities and abilities of the country. That plan is to build at as small a cost as possible a line capable of carrying the traffic which the country affords, and as the country develops and the traffic increases the line may be improved with the earnings until brought to such a state of perfection as the circumstances demand. For a country with as little spare capital as Japan has it would not seem to be in agreement with ordinary rules of political economy to expend a more than necessary sum on any public work, railroads included. In wealthier and more prosperous countries where surplus capital constantly seeks for investment a small rate of interest satisfies the capitalist, and consequently larger than necessary sums may be invested in industrial enterprises, and yet bring a satisfactory return.

"But I think it is evident on the very face of the subject that in a country where money brings such an interest as it does in Japan, private capitalists cannot afford to invest money in railroad lines which for several years cannot be expected to realize more than 4 or 6 per cent.; and if the government take hold of the matter, it cannot afford either to spend unnecessary sums in fine stations and bridges, when all the traffic can be carried on safely without them.

"The writer of these notes is not a builder of railroads, nor has he any personal interest in any enterprises in Japan aside from that which all well wishers of Japan entertain for her public spirit.

"A recent visit to Sapporo in Hokkaido, and several runs over the Poronai railway, between Otaru and Sapporo, have suggested that some facts and figures in regard to this line may be of benefit.

"As is pretty well known to all foreigners in Japan, this railroad is the first line constructed on the American principle in the east; and such being the case naturally a good deal of criticism, friendly and otherwise, has been bestowed upon it. The line as completed at present extends from Temiya to Sapporo, a distance of about 22 English miles, keeping close to the sea shore from Otaru to Zeni-Bako, a distance of 10 miles, and then passing through an almost level country to Sapporo. It is intended to extend the line to the Poronai coal mines, the distance from Sapporo being about 35 miles. No particular engineering difficulties exist between Otaru and Sapporo except that the line of the beach between Otaru and Zeni-Bako necessitates several very sharp curves, one being 25° with a radius of 229 feet, and 3 are 16° curves.

"The estimated cost of the line to Sapporo was yen 535,843 at 1.35 (the rate when the money was drawn) equal \$396,920 which in even numbers, is \$18,041 per mile. But it should be remembered that, adding the pier and side tracks, the length of the road is 23½ miles about, thereby the average cost will be in even numbers \$16,771. But of the estimated cost, yen 54,500 yet remains unexpended, equal to \$40,370, but this amount will be used in the construction of offices, stations, ballasting, and so forth.

"A pier 1,320 feet long was constructed in 33 working days. At the extreme point the water is 21 feet deep. Two thousand tons of freight from the barque *Toby* was unloaded at this pier in 28 days. It is estimated that the cost of the pier was saved with that vessel alone as for every day she was detained a sum of \$225 was paid.

"There are five tunnels with an aggregate length of 1,368 feet, three being stone aggregating 460 feet, and two of clay 958 feet, in length. The work of track laying was begun October 1st 1880 and finished November 24th. A "Howe Truss" bridge 75 feet long, with approaching trestle work 315 feet, was begun September 23rd and finished October 17th. The first train passed over the line November 28th, thus making the period during which the road was constructing from the time ground was broken, less than nine months.

"When we consider that but five foreigners were employed in its construction, and that the laborers were almost all new to the work, it will be seen that the time was well employed. It is not claimed that the road was in first class order then nor is it so now, and yet the distance is run at this time, with a mixed train, in one hour thirty minutes, not including one stoppage, that at Zeni-Bako. But it should also be remembered that the first 10 miles pass through a constant succession of villages, and also that in that space there are 49 curves, notably those previously mentioned. From Zeni-Bako to Sapporo, a distance of a little more than 12 miles, the time is forty minutes, including two stops. The stops each occupy about six minutes thereby reducing the running time to twenty-eight minutes for 12 miles or say 25 miles per hour. It will be seen that for a road just built and professedly in a poor condition, the time made is exceptionally good. The work of ballasting, building stations, &c., is being pushed forward as rapidly as circumstances will permit, and

by autumn the line should be in good condition. Then, to follow up the American idea, as the traffic improves and the earnings accumulate, the line may be further improved, iron bridges made to take the place of wooden ones, heavier rails laid, and such other improvements may be made as circumstances may dictate. The iron for the rails was made in England but when bought was in bond in New York, and being convenient for quick shipment was taken; the price being no cheaper than American iron of a similar grade. All the machinery, cars, engines and derricks are American, the engines built in Pittsburgh Pa., and the cars in Wilmington, Delaware. The 1st class cars are equal to American short line 2nd class. No upholstery of any sort is in these cars, but the seats are bottomed and backed with perforated bent wood thereby making them fairly comfortable. The 2nd class is about the same as the 3rd class of the Tokio—Yokohama line. Fare for 1st class, 75 sen, 2nd class, 55 sen. Each coach 1st class will carry 46, and 2nd class more than 50 passengers. These cars are all connected by "Millers' patent buffer and platform," and are furnished with the Westinghouse air brake thereby placing the whole train of passenger coaches completely under the control of the engine driver. The engines are built on the mogul pattern, each having six driving wheels, and two leaders, and capable of drawing on a level track a dead weight of 400 tons. There is one coach sent out for the sole use of Governor KURODA, which is upholstered in fair style and would rank on American lines as a 1st class coach.

"The following condensed statement will show the present condition of the road.

Estimated cost per mile \$18,041.

Including pier and side tracks \$16,771.

Balance of estimate yet unused \$40,370.

Length of pier 1,320 feet.

Length of tunnels 1,368 feet.

#### Rolling stock.

Engines .....	2	Platform cars .....	10
1st class cars .....	4	Dumps .....	5
2nd " " .....	3	Extra official coach 1	
Box cars .....	10	Machine shops.....	1
Station houses ...	4	Engine houses.....	1
Car houses.....	1		

"These figures were furnished by Mr. Tamauchi the chief commissioner of railroads in Hokkaido, and may be relied upon as correct.

"The line is not furnished, as will be seen by reference to the above figures, with a large amount of rolling stock, but the quantity is sufficient for all the traffic of the present. The writer of this communication again disclaims any connection whatever with this or any other railway lines, and he has been moved to lay the above facts before the public in order that fair judgment may be passed upon this first American line, and he does so with the belief that a cheap road, such as this one, being more in accordance with the present necessities of the country will be more satisfactory than expensive ventures."

D.

#### TEA-FIRING LABOURERS.

To the editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

SIR:—Your kindly appeal on behalf of the children of the tea-firing women induces me to trouble you with these lines to say that the case of these poor people has already engaged the attention of some ladies residing here as

missionaries. A few years ago a building on No. 39 was opened by a lady—since removed to Tokio,—for the reception of these children. The babies were fed with milk, and the elder ones had some schooling; the attempt proved quite successful. This year the matter has again been taken up by some other ladies. The tea-firing firms, or most of them, were canvassed with a view of ascertaining their disposition, and it having been found that there was a very general and cordial feeling in favour of any attempt of the kind, the next step was to endeavour to obtain a building or buildings suitable for the purpose.

However, after searching all round the settlement, no place or places conveniently situated could be obtained at any moderate rental, and this attempt had to be given up. For one of the great difficulties in the matter is, that many of the children are very young, and it is necessary that they should be close at hand to the godowns where their mothers are working. Finally, however, the school in connection with the chapel built by Dr. Hepburn in Sumiyoshi-cho (near the cricket ground) was given up for the purpose, and was opened by the lady in charge of that portion of the mission work for the reception of tea-firing children. Some twenty or thirty are daily cared for there: but of course this situation is available only for the knot of godowns in that locality, and not very near to any of them.

I believe I am justified in saying that if suitable buildings can be provided in convenient locations, there are ladies here who will undertake the work—arduous and self-denying as it is—of taking charge of them as schools and nurseries for these little ones: and I believe I am equally justified in saying that the foreign tea-firing firms will gladly contribute any moderate sum towards the monthly expenses of such establishments.

Your further help towards the attainment of this end will be thankfully welcomed, I feel sure.

Yours obediently,

W.

Yokohama, July 14th, 1881.

#### NAVAL COURTS.

To the editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

SIR,—In reference to your article on the return of his certificate to Captain Thompson, late of the *Ella Beatrice*, I wish to ask one or two questions.

The letter from London announcing the decision of the Board of Trade to Captain Thompson was dated May 21st. The English mail of that date was delivered here June 28th. By that time the Acting-Consul here should be in receipt of a communication from the Board of Trade, and I should like to know why the reversal of the finding of the naval court has not been made as public as its decision was in the first instance? Matters of this kind affect us as a body of men subjected to what we conceive to be a form of tribunal incompetent to arrive at accurate conclusions in those cases where practical seamanship is concerned; and when the finding of any of these courts is virtually quashed the fact should be made public without delay.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

MASTER MARINER.

Yokohama, July 24th.

[We are quite unable to answer our correspondent's questions, because we are ignorant of the procedure in matters of this kind. If the Board of Trade does advise the president of the naval court of the affirmation or reversal of a decree, the communication in the matter of the *Ella Beatrice* should have been received here at the end of last month; in which case the interests of justice demanded that the result of the appeal should be made public.

Certainly this ought to be the invariable practice; but if the president of the naval court which suspended the certificate of the master of the *Ella Beatrice* for twelve months is in receipt of a despatch from the Board of Trade its contents have not been published; and it is extremely unlikely anything more would have been heard of the matter if Captain Thompson had not been thoughtful enough to forward to us a copy of his petition of appeal, and an extract from the letter from the owners of his late vessel. These papers should have arrived some time ago, the delay being explained by the envelope being marked "missent in Indian mail."—Ed. J. G.]

### Occasional Notes.

THE murderous assault upon President Garfield may not terminate fatally, as there was too much reason to fear from the tenor of telegrams received; and it is with feelings akin to thankfulness we are able to announce that latest advices speak favourably of the chances of recovery. Business in America, which sustained a severe shock from an event which might have had a tendency to change the whole policy of the government, has taken a more satisfactory turn; and as the chances of the President's recovery improve complete confidence will be restored.

The news of the assassination of the Czar created, as was natural, a feeling of deep sympathy for the object of the outrage and his family; but to people who govern themselves, as do the Americans and English, the murder of a despotic sovereign, however much the crime is deplored and the assassins denounced, is but another entry of blood in the gory list of victims of personal misgovernment and its antagonistic anarchy. When the assassin's hand is raised against the faithful servant of the people, whose office ought to be an inviolable protection, another feeling, far purer, more earnest, and infinitely more resolute, springs up in the breasts of men. An attempt upon the life of the President of the United States, or upon the Queen of England, is equivalent to an outrage upon the people, and seems to place the perpetrator beyond the pale of mercy.

Thoroughly realising the deep sense of horror and indignation which would arise in the hearts of loyal Englishmen at a similar attempt upon their honoured constitutional sovereign, we feel certain that an earnest feeling of sympathy will be felt for the American people at this latest outrage wherever the common language is spoken; and the good news received here to-day will be hailed with sincere gratification and relief throughout the civilized world. Assuredly it is ample cause for general congratulation and rejoicing that a great nation may still be spared this blot upon its fair historical pages.

THE naval court's decision in the matter of the stranding of the British barque *Ella Beatrice*, delivered on the 22nd March last, suspending the certificate of the master for twelve months, will be in the recollection of most of our readers. The decision of the court was severely commented upon at the time; and the general opinion was correctly set out

in the following passages from an article in this paper of March 23rd:—"All those who understand the circumstances of the *Ella Beatrice* inquiry are astonished at the result." And referring to the power to appeal granted by the Merchant Shipping Act, we added that an appeal from the decision of courts held in ports far distant from the Board of Trade, should be to Her Majesty's representative, or even better still, to the qualified judge of the nearest of H. B. M. courts, for,—“The danger of entrusting unlimited power to persons unversed in judicial procedure and yet authorized to sit as judges, must be recognized. We say unlimited power, for the exercise of a very small portion of the power conferred upon naval courts abroad may, owing to the impossibility of timely appeal, deprive a man of his command, lead to his dismissal from a service in which he has passed half a life time, stain a character which had never been sullied by a single imputation of carelessness, and eventually ruin him. We trust, however, Captain Thompson will take measures to appeal at once to the Board of Trade against this harsh decision.”

The circumstances of this particular case were also animadverted upon by “A British Shipmaster.”

Finding public opinion almost unanimous in condemnation of the conclusion to which the court had arrived, Captain Thompson adopted the suggestion to appeal, and by the mail which left here April 2nd, forwarded to the Board of Trade the following petition:—

Yokohama, April 1st, 1881.

To the Right Honourable,

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE.

The humble petition of the undersigned, late master of the British barque *Ella Beatrice*, official number 62,521, belonging to the port of London, registered owner A. Wilkinson, lost off Jinsanmura, north-west coast of Japan, on February 7th, 1881, sheweth:—

1.—That your petitioner proceeded from the scene of the wreck to Hakodate for the purpose of soliciting an inquiry into the circumstances of the loss of the above-named vessel.

2.—That H. B. M. Consul at Hakodate was unable to form a naval court in that port, and your petitioner was compelled to proceed to Yokohama.

3.—That your petitioner made a statement of the circumstances of the loss to H.B.M. Acting-Consul at Yokohama, who convened a naval court consisting of H.B.M. Acting-Consul, president, and Messrs. Wm. McDonald, retired master mariner and bill broker, and H. Beadle, master of the British barque *Cithrum*, a vessel which made this port damaged in November 1880.

4.—That the evidence taken discloses a discrepancy between the statement of your petitioner supported by the mate, Dugald Kennedy, and the crew, to the effect, according to your petitioner and the mate, that the vessel was wore twice, and according to the crew that the vessel was wore three or four times. Your petitioner adheres to his original statement that the vessel was wore twice only.

5.—That upon the evidence given the naval court found as follows:—

[The judgment of March 22, 1881, was here recited in *extenso*.]

6.—Your petitioner declares that the letter signed by the Acting-Consul at Hakodate, containing an important statement beginning with the words,—“The master &c.” down to “vessel” and forming part of the record attached hereto, was never shown to him, nor read in court, and that your petitioner did not know of its existence until after the finding of the court was given.

7.—Your petitioner respectfully submits that it was impossible for him, owing to the heavy snow storms and thick squally weather, to obtain any cross bearings, or to sight any land whatever after shaping a course from Koshima.

8.—That your petitioner, after sighting Koshima, steered a course E. & S. to counteract an assumed W. S. W. current as laid down in Pindlay's Directory, and to enter the Tsugaru straits.

9.—That consequent upon the prevalence of strong northerly gales, the current had assumed a

direction about N. E., which carried the vessel out of her course. That on sighting the land about 4 p.m. on February 6th, your petitioner erred in assuming it to be the south point of Yezo; a mistake to which the loss of the vessel is unquestionably attributable.

10.—That this error in judgment was not hastily committed, your petitioner having been on deck for three days and nights using every care that a prudent seaman should for the safety of his vessel. That the unusual severity of the winter attended with heavy snow falls had covered the hills and low lands with twenty to forty feet of snow, and effectually disguised the formation of the land. That the glimpse of the land was confined to a high bluff and was of short duration, not exceeding ten minutes. That your petitioner's great anxiety throughout, after shaping his course from Koshima, was lest the current should set him too far to the northward; and that anxiously watching for the land under this impression may have given rise to the incorrect assumption that led to the course of the vessel being at once altered to S. S. W.

11.—In bringing the ship to the wind the fore-sail and main staysail were blown away, and the ship lost much ground, rendering correction of the error, if it had been discovered, impossible; and equally impossible the adoption of the intention to hold up until the weather cleared, the intense cold rendering the bending of new sails out of the question.

12.—That under the circumstances, with the high sea running, the use of the lead was deemed useless though it was kept in readiness. The anchors were on deck and every precaution that prudence suggested was adopted.

13.—Your petitioner asserts that the use of the lead would have given him no intimation whatever of his whereabouts; and that this is also the opinion of competent seamen experienced in the navigation of the west and north coasts of Japan.

14.—That your petitioner has held a master's certificate since 1861, and extra-master's certificate since 1867; that until this disaster he has never lost a vessel or a life, or met with any serious accident.

15.—That no allegation of misconduct of any description is preferred against your petitioner.

16.—That the finding of the naval court is based upon the commission by your petitioner of an error of judgment, which your petitioner admits; and on the non-use of the lead, which your petitioner submits was justified.

17.—That even upon the assumption that the loss of the vessel was caused by the default of your petitioner in the matters stated, the suspension of his certificate for a period of twelve months is a punishment of excessive severity.

18.—And your petitioner respectfully asks for a review of the proceedings by your honourable board; and that the finding of the naval court at Yokohama may be varied in such manner as justice may seem to demand.

(Signed) ANDREW THOMPSON.

The petitioner proceeded home in the *Bellerophon*, and on his arrival in the Suez Canal received a letter from the owners of his late ship, dated London, May 21st, fifty days after the despatch of the petition from Yokohama; from that letter we extract the following passage:—"We write on the risk of the letter reaching you to inform you that Mrs. Thompson has received notice from the Board of Trade that your certificate will be returned to you on application for the same at Aberdeen."

This is the best comment on the decision of the court, the strictures upon it by the press and its correspondents, and upon the action of Mr. Acting-Consul Dolmen and the consular constable in those unjustifiable and inquisitorial proceedings in connection with the correspondents of this journal which we exposed at the time, and which has been subsequently severely condemned by the *London and China Express* in an article reprinted in our yesterday's issue.

The Board of Trade evidently wasted no time in reversing the decision of the naval court held in Yokohama. Really, upon the facts, there was nothing else left for the Board to do than to repair the mischief with the least possible delay.

An industry so-called, but which really demands little labour and trifling outlay, has before this been recommended to those Japanese who are desirous of making two blades of grass grow where one grew before; but an evident want of activity, enterprise, industry, call it whatever we will, seems to interfere with the production of saleable commodities which continues to be confined to tea, silk, or other products which no prudent nation would place any reliance on as staple exports. The cultivation of the Cinchona in Japan should be eminently profitable; and we call attention to the following important extract from *The Lancet* of April 16th:—

"We lately referred to the promising extension of the cinchona cultivation in the island of Jamaica, and some further details of interest are contained in the "Annual Report of the Public Gardens and Plantation in Jamaica," for the year ending the 30th September, 1880, by Mr. D. Morris, M.A., P.G.S., Director. The work has been retarded by severe hurricanes and storms which have inflicted great damage on plantations, but, nevertheless, the progress has been very satisfactory. About 50,000 cinchona plants have been set out in their permanent places, of which 43,000 were *C. officinalis*, 6000 were *C. calisaya*, and 1000 *C. succirubra*. No new land has been opened up, these plants having been used in planting the remainder of the land cleared and partly planted in preceding years. A striking proof of the suitability of the soil for the cultivation of the tree is afforded by the fact that in two plantations the original planting has been completely masked by the abundant growth of self-sown seedlings, some of which are now large enough to be cropped, and there is the promise of a succession of valuable crops for several years. Root bark from these seedling trees has realised 10s. per pound, and trunk bark 8s. per pound. Moreover, these self-sown seedlings were to the number of 100,000 transplanted to nurseries, where about 350,000 others were raised from seed. Several new species of cinchona have been introduced, especially a valuable variety of Columbian bark and the true *Calisaya* bark; it having been found that the plant cultivated in the island as such was really a hybrid, partaking more or less of the red bark character, and, although a valuable form, is less so than the true yellow bark. Several cuttings have also been introduced from Kew of the precious *Ledgeriana* variety and are thriving. This variety has been called by Mr. Howard "The Prince of Cinchonas." Quite recently bark of this form has been sold in the London market at 14s. 8d. per pound, and that from trees grown in Java has been sold in Amsterdam at 17s. per pound. The aggregate amount of bark shipped to England during the year was 27,299 pounds, which sold for £5380, and was yielded by 8248 trees. The evidence afforded by the rapid growth of self-sown seedlings that the climate of the Blue Mountains is specially suitable for the growth of cinchona is corroborated by another very interesting fact mentioned in the report. Twelve years ago a few seedlings were planted for experiment on one or two estates, and most of the plants were removed when the regular nurseries were opened. Hearing last year that a few cinchonas had been left at one of these experimental plantations at an elevation of 4800 feet, Mr. Morris determined to visit the spot and ascertain their condition. Nothing had been done to the land since 1868, and the road thither was almost impenetrable. The trees were found to occupy an area of 120 square yards, and to be no

less than 379 in number, and some were only nine inches apart. Most were of the Crown bark (*C. officinalis*), and about twenty feet high, with clean tall stems, the largest measuring fifteen inches in circumference at the base. The condition of the trees showed clearly that when a cinchona plantation has been established and the trees completely cover the ground, say in the third year from planting, no further attention is necessary till they arrive at maturity. Mr. Morris examines the question of whether the extensive cultivation of cinchona is likely to render it an unremunerative object of industry, by lowering the price of quinine, but he concludes, with much show of reason that the death-roll among all the nations of the world from fevers, for which it is the sole remedy, is so vast that there is no prospect of the price of quinine being seriously diminished. On the contrary, the prices of good quinine-yielding barks have been rising. At any rate, the cultivation in Jamaica would seem to have nothing to fear, for it is estimated that the yield per acre from the crown barks, in suitable localities and properly planted, would not be less than £1980, while if *Ledgeriana* bark is grown it would be £2000. It is evident that the quinine might fall considerably in price, and yet its cultivation under such conditions might yield a handsome profit."

Jamaica lies between 18° and 19° north latitude, and enjoys a climate somewhat similar to that on the southern coast of Japan. In Peru, the home of the *Cinchonaceae*, the mean annual temperature ranges between 62.6° and 53.6° Fahrenheit; the mean annual temperature of this portion of Japan is between 56° and 57° increasing further south; and the hill ranges are identical with those where the tree flourishes best, namely, elevations from 1,800 to 6,000 feet. The trees seem to require little if any attention, as Mr. Morris found in an area of 120 square yards no less than 379 trees, some only nine inches apart, twenty feet high and fifteen inches in circumference. These plants had been left at an experimental plantation 4,800 feet above the sea; and nothing had been done to the ground for 12 years. Seedlings yield bark worth \$2.65 taken from the root, and \$2.13 from the trunk per pound. The *Ledgeriana* variety grown in Java, is worth \$4.53 per pound. The question of increased production diminishing prices sufficiently to render cultivation unremunerative is also considered; and decided in the negative. In fact, good quinine barks are improving in price; and the importance of their cultivation in Japan is shown by the value of the average yield in suitable localities being equivalent to \$2,666 per *tan* of land, Japanese measurement.

The rapid strides now being made by medical science in Japan must create a far larger demand for this invaluable remedy for fevers than now exists. Quinine value \$100,800 was imported into Japan last year; and the import must increase for Great Britain, with a similar population, imported in the same period \$6,320,000 worth.

The cinchona tree, like the olive, requires some few years to arrive at fruitful age; but when it reaches maturity it yields a rich reward to its possessor; therefore he who is courageous enough to try the experiment on some of the slopes of hills now lying entirely waste, may, some short time hence, find himself endowed with a means of wealth more precious than a gold mine.

The last number of the *Oesterreichische Monatsschrift für den Orient* contains the first



instalment of an interesting article on the Chinese customs' service. This is, the writer says, the best of all the improvements wrought in modern China, and it was originally forced on the Chinese government by circumstances. Its importance, however, for the finances of the empire was soon recognised. It differs essentially from the corresponding institution in Japan, in that Europeans are mere advisers in the latter country, and their influence is much less than that of the foreign officials of China. "The Japanese desire to administer their country according to European ideas, but will do so themselves; the Chinese desire neither one nor the other, but grant the foreigners whom they have learned to trust complete *carte blanche*." Referring to the history of the service, the writer observes that before the opium war with England in 1840 all the foreign commerce of China was concentrated in Canton. In those days a trade was carried on in East India Company's ships which was far greater than the present trade of Canton; and although there existed a kind of tariff, it was usual for the supercargo to pay a rough lump sum to the inspecting mandarins, and then to land anything or as much as he liked. After the treaty of Nanking, by which the ports of Shanghai, Ningpo, Foochow, and Amoy were opened to trade, a fixed tariff was also agreed to; but the collection of the duties was still in the hands of the local mandarins. The chief difference between this and the present arrangements consisted in the application of the money collected. At present all this goes to the central government, while formerly it went for the most part into the provincial treasuries, and was expended for provincial purposes. The Peking government could call on the local authorities for the amount of the customs revenue, but it was not in a position to check the accuracy of the accounts. This anomaly was first abolished by the formation of the foreign customs' service. The first step towards this great financial reform was brought about by the action of the Taiping rebels in surrounding Shanghai in 1854. On account of the uncertainty attending commerce at the time, the Chinese requested the chief powers with which they had treaty relations to nominate members to a commission which would collect the duties on goods entering China in foreign vessels, and hand the same over to the Chinese authorities. Sir Thomas Wade was the English representative on this commission. The customs' revenues were taken in this manner until the treaty of Tientsin in 1858. By this agreement five per cent. *ad valorem* was to be levied on imports and exports; and it was promised that customs' duties should be levied on a uniform system in all the treaty ports. To accomplish this the English treaty provided that British subjects might be employed by the Chinese government, and similar clauses, *mutatis mutandis*, were inserted in all the other treaties between China and foreign powers. Amongst the first thus selected was Mr. Robert Hart, who since 1863 has held the post of chief of the service, and who has given it its present organization. He has at present the rank of Chinese provincial treasurer, and in all matters connected with the collection of taxes and tonnage dues on foreign ships, as well as the so-called transit passes, he is directly responsible to the Tsung-li-yamen. The various commissioners of customs with their staffs of European and Chinese officials work under him. In 1880 the service numbered 2,200 employés 1766 of whom were Chinese, while 464 are foreigners, subjects of the various treaty powers.

The writer then gives a brief account of the organization at the various ports. With this we are all familiar, and it may therefore be passed over. On the subject of smuggling he mentions that notwithstanding the strictest watchfulness and integrity on the part of the foreign customs staff it still flourishes, especially in the port of Canton, for this is the centre of a network of canals full of creeks in which the small, fast, smuggling craft can find refuge. In Hongkong and Macao, there are, he says, guilds specially formed to assist in smuggling, and as the duty on opium is thirty Haikuan taels, the smugglers can afford to lose a cargo now and again. Women, as they are not frequently searched, are much employed in smuggling opium; the sailors and others on board the steam-boats from Hongkong are also engaged in the traffic. The ordinary clumsy methods of hiding the drug in the coal-bunkers, under the machinery &c., have long ago been abandoned, and among some of the more ingenious methods used are the following. A smuggler from Hongkong writes to his confederate at Canton that he will leave in a certain steamer, and when opposite a certain place will throw opium overboard, with a small float attached to show the exact spot. The steamer passes on, and in a few minutes a boat emerges from one of the creeks in the river, and, guided by the float, soon recovers the opium. Frequently a piece of paper is used in place of a float. It is glued to a piece of wood which is attached to the opium, but is detached in a short time by the action of the water, and floats on the surface to indicate at what place the river must be dragged. Occasionally also hollow bamboo poles like those used by coolies for carrying goods filled with opium, are taken in the steamer to Canton, and allowed to lie about near the hatchways. Coolies, who are in the conspiracy, come on board with their own poles, exchange them for those on board, then carry a load on shore, and leave the valuable poles behind them at some rendezvous.

The article is to be continued in the forthcoming number of the magazine, and we shall again bring it to the notice of our readers.

THE intensity of the cold experienced throughout the northern hemisphere last winter, the prevalence of ice in low latitudes, quantities having been met with recently in the forty-fourth parallel, and the marked mildness of what we must call the present summer, prompt inquiry into the causes of the noticeable change in the character of the seasons. Certain philosophers in Europe have created alarm by expressing their belief that the northern hemisphere is rapidly drifting into a state of glaciation. We know from the writings of astronomers and physicists that glacial periods are cyclic, and that this earth passed through such a period eighty thousand years ago. A probable reason why these periods should occur is that the direction of inclination of the earth's axis has a slow period of change. At present during the winter months although the earth is nearer to the sun than in summer, the earth's axis is inclined away from the sun, and thus the coldness of that season. When the direction of the inclination of the earth's axis has so changed that it is turned away from the sun when at our greatest distance from that luminary, our winters would be even colder than they are at present. The times at which an event like this should happen is quite calculable. Another cause which might make a considerable difference in climate is the cyclic variation in the earth's orbit. When this eccentricity is at its

greatest limit the effects produced upon the globe in consequence of it then being further from the centre of radiant heat than it is at present, might be very great.

Causes like these might make winters both longer and colder, and snow would accumulate. At present the northern hemisphere has a short winter and during that period is nearer to the sun. The southern hemisphere, however, is badly off having a long winter and during that period being comparatively at a distance from the sun. 10,500 years hence the northern hemisphere will be in the same position as the southern hemisphere now is. This is the predicament into which we are slowly drifting, and when it is fully realized, on account of the variation in the distribution of heat and cold, the Gulf stream may be deflected from the shores of Europe and the Kuro Siwo from Japan. Without giving undue consideration to these great generic changes there are many smaller ones due to a variety of causes. During the past winter London and other towns in the northern parts of Europe were blocked with snow to a depth scarcely ever before heard of: rivers in which ice is rarely seen were frozen over; and in the open country snow several feet in depth lay for weeks on the ground starving out wild animals and birds and making them so tame that many of the latter fed from the hands of the charitable. Japan has had her share: in the north the severity of the winter has been extreme, the open country bearing snow from ten to twenty feet in depth, while on the rising lands towards the sea the snow was in such quantities that declivities were filled up, the valleys choked, and the whole coast line rendered quite unrecognizable in its garment of snow. Yedo bay, between the 35th and 36th parallels, was partly frozen over; and in the south of Japan and China a clear sky, with bright sun during the day, gave a degree of cold rarely recorded even on isolated occasions in these parts of the globe. We are now advancing in the month of July, when the heat of summer is usually experienced, and find ourselves shivering in ulsters and under blankets with the thermometer recording 60° Fah. only, or nearly 20° below the mean temperature of the months of July and August. We lately published a letter giving particulars of a large collection of ice in the north of Japan at the end of April, the estimated area of the ice-fields being 6000 square miles, and almost sufficient to impede navigation. Ice in that latitude at that season is quite unusual; and judging from the direction of its course no other conclusion can be arrived at than that it came down from the Sea of Okhotsk, the theory of a drift from Behring Sea being incompatible with the known course of the currents. In every probability this accumulation of ice has some connection, directly or indirectly, with the long continuance of low temperatures. Whether the low temperature is the cause of the gathering of ice, or the ice is the cause of the low temperature, is a question we are not prepared to answer. Possibly investigation might show that neither holds the relation to the other of cause and effect; and that both are dependent on some third phenomenon on which we can only speculate. Possibly, for example, the Oyasiwo, or cold current from the north, though of infinitely less volume and impulsive course may, at rare intervals, acquire strength sufficient to deflect the Kuro-siwo, or warm stream which, originating at the equator, curves at the 23rd parallel, sweeps past the coast of Japan, and gives to this favoured land an equality of seasons which causes the climate to take rank among the finest in the world. It

is not at all improbable that such a deflection might occur; for these currents no doubt vary in their relative intensities and may reasonably account for periods of abnormal heat, cold, rain, and drought.

Speculations of this character are, however, imperfect, and only serve to account for local variations in climate. The deflection of the Kuro-siwo may serve to explain the changes in Japan but has no bearing on the similar condition of Europe. To throw light upon the general decrease of heat, other and more comprehensive causes must be inquired into for which the limits of this note afford no space.

THE diplomatic relations between the United States and Great Britain during the past fourteen years have been conducted by one British minister at Washington and successive appointments to the post of American minister in London. Sir Edward Thornton, our minister in Washington, where he is highly respected, has been in almost continuous charge of that legation since Dec. 1867. He has now been promoted to the rank of ambassador and sent to St. Petersburg; and his successor is the Hon. Lionel Sackville West. Mr. West joined the diplomatic service in 1845; was attaché in Lisbon 1847, Naples 1849, Stuttgart 1852 and Berlin 1853; secretary of legation at Turin 1858, and there several times chargé d'affaires; secretary at Madrid 1864 and chargé d'affaires; secretary of embassy at Berlin 1867; Paris 1868, and twice minister plenipotentiary there; sent as envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to the Argentine republic in 1872, and accredited to Spain in 1878.

This record of service shows that the new British minister to Washington is a gentleman of thirty-six years active experience in the chief courts of Europe; and as his personal qualities are said to be of the highest class, the nomination to this most important diplomatic post will no doubt be satisfactory and gratifying to the United States government.

If we were illiberal we might be disposed to take up the argument against American trade that Mr. E. H. House had no hesitation in urging against English trade. He said:—"But the desire to get English wares admitted (into Japan) upon easy terms is not the only reason for keeping the imposts low. There is another and a far more insidious motive. The Japanese must be prevented from developing their own industries, and competing with the products which England pours into her ports. Nay, more; the markets must be so manipulated as to crush out existing industries as far as possible. It is needless to state that, before the advent of foreigners, Japan found no difficulty in supplying her own wants. Her cotton fabrics, for one thing, were ample in quantity and excellent in quality. Now, England sends her four millions' worth of raw cotton and three millions' worth of manufactured annually. A huge proportion of the native commodity has been driven out of the field of competition. How it has been driven out no one needs to be told who is acquainted with the methods employed by Great Britain for enlarging the area of her commercial tributary possessions. But who shall answer the melancholy question, what has become of the army of cotton growers?" &c.

The import of kerosene oil has assumed large dimensions, the quantity annually imported exceeding in value two million dollars, and is increasing. The effect of this import upon Japanese seed oil has been remarkable. On the 21st ultimo the market price of native

oil was, for a quantity of about four koku, 115 to 125 yen, as compared with 79.50 to 88 yen one year before, according to quality; a rise of 44 to 45 per cent. Some portion of this rise in price is no doubt attributable to the currency which has more or less affected all commodities, but the *Chiugai Bukka Shinpo* states that the higher value is due to decreased cultivation consequent upon the import of kerosene, the districts of Settsu, Kawachi, Izumi, Harima, and other places noted for oil yields, having materially curtailed the production of the seed. What is the result? According to the theory of the protectionist;—"as it is with cotton, so, in a less degree, it is with other articles. The ruin of a mass of cotton producers, the suffering of millions concerned in the manufacture and sale of that staple, the paralysis of a dozen or a hundred domestic industries, and the slow starvation of helpless victims to alien greed—these are trifles to which the promoters of a lofty economic principle can give no heed." This is what Mr. House says. Kerosene, has, therefore, applying this theory, been ruinous to this country, and caused the suffering of millions engaged in the manufacture and sale of oil. The *Chiugai Bukka Shinpo* is of a different opinion. The oil growers, says this commercial authority have diminished their production of oil seed and increased their wheat and barley crops, the yield of these cereals being so satisfactory that a visible effect upon the price of rice is the result. Practically, therefore, kerosene oil, which is one of the most valuable imports, most beneficial in its influences, of any ever brought into this country, can be supplied at a price less than the normal cost of native oil, weight for weight, while the quantity consumed, and the light given, are in the ratio of one hundred to one in favour of kerosene. Where one man was engaged in the sale of native oil ten are now engaged as dealers in kerosene; and the millions of producers of native oil seed instead of calling themselves ruined have turned their industry to a more profitable source, thereby conferring an everlasting benefit upon the masses by cheapening the price of food.

The new tariff, we understand, proposes to levy 20 per cent duty on kerosene, thereby directly taxing labour. What will the American, minister say to this? He may happily remember that a powerful distinction is necessarily made between English manufactured goods and American kerosene; though both are in their way equally valuable; the latter gives light and health where formerly darkness and disease reigned, and the former provides clothing for the labourer who cannot afford to purchase that made in his own country with the product of such labour as he only is permitted to perform.

THE proceedings in connection with the Macao gambling monopoly have entered upon a new phase if the information contained in the *Hongkong Telegraph* is correct. On the sale of the monopoly to his Chinese friends for \$1,015,000, Mr. John Pitman deposited his cheque for \$10,000 with the Macao government. Much delay has arisen in the completion of the purchase, the whole sum of the money not being forthcoming; and up to the latest date the governor of Macao was undecided as to the most prudent course to pursue, the general opinion being that the lease should be put up again for sale, at the upset price of \$1,015,000.

The most extraordinary part of the transaction, however, appears to be that on the

presentation of the cheque, given by Mr. Pitman, to the bank on which it was drawn, payment was refused on the ground that the cheque was irregular. The irregularity consisted in the cheque being made payable "to order" simply, and for that reason the bank, acting no doubt properly, declined to pay. An officer of the Portuguese government then waited upon the drawer requesting the rectification of the omission, but Mr. Pitman is said to have declined to compromise himself further, and to have refused to make the required correction.

Legal proceedings have been commenced against Mr. Pitman for the sum of \$10,000; and pending the hearing of the cause comment would be at least premature for we have not yet had an opportunity of hearing the other side. Still, as the *Hongkong Telegraph*, from whose pages we cull this brief account of the affair, says, it is quite clear there must be "something rotten in the state of Denmark." Very strong opinions will be held by men of business; but it will be best to await the issue before discussing the matter further.

MR. D. W. STEVENS, secretary of the United States legation in Tokio, has been "interviewed" by a Washington newspaper reporter, and in the course of his remarks he displayed a power of imagination, a scrupulous regard for truth, and profound knowledge of business which do infinite credit to his understanding.

In reply to a question as to which nation is most in favour with Japan, Mr. Stevens is reported to have said:—"The commercial policy of the English is such as commands many privileges." What privileges, Mr. Stevens? Come, define them, and favour us with a short outline of the commercial policy of England. This sort of thing is going too far; and the absurdity of it is that neither the secretary of the United States legation nor any one else can point to a single privilege enjoyed by England in her trade with Japan that is not the common property of all treaty powers. Perhaps Mr. Stevens meant for "commercial policy" the words "vigour and intelligence": their use would, at all events, render clear an otherwise obscure and unmeaning passage.

"They (the Japanese) realise the fact that we are true friends and have no inclination to force upon them our wares at our prices," said Mr. Stevens. Just so. Americans in Japan never want to force their wares at their own prices. They come here with stocks of goods and beg the Japanese to take them as gifts. Money is no object; the exchange of commodities is unnecessary. Benevolence, pure benevolence, is the only object of the American in Japan.

"They (the Japanese) look upon America as their natural trading point, and, if untrammelled, would undoubtedly buy most of their goods from us," added Mr. Stevens in a burst of confidence; but he omitted to define in what way the Japanese are "trammelled" and thereby prevented from buying most of their goods from America. He also contradicts himself, for he had previously stated that Americans do not wish to sell their goods except at Japanese prices; and the Japanese price is, as a rule, not very remunerative to the importer.

"Americans have almost entire control of educational affairs" continued Mr. Stevens. This assertion rather complicates the matter, for only a couple of months ago "one of the German professors at the university of Tokio" wrote to a London journal to say that "all the professors at the Yeddo university are Germans" and that the minister of the department

is also a German. Now Mr. Stevens makes them all American. One statement is just as true as the other; that is, they are both untrue.

Mr. Stevens, true to the policy of a certain class of persons who seek to promote their own advantage at the cost of the reputation of others, could not permit the opportunity to pass without libelling English merchants. He said:—"At present the English undertrade the United States by selling a very inferior article that in external appearance seems equal to the American article." We challenge Mr. Stevens to proof of this most wantonly untruthful statement. What the English have done for twenty years they do still; and the Japanese have had plenty of time to discover which article they prefer. Until Mr. Stevens names the particular article or articles to which he refers, we are at a loss to know what he really means. If, however, he intended his words to have a general application to imports, we aver without hesitation that Mr. Stevens has made an assertion he can neither justify nor support.

Mr. Stevens' comments are a grave reflection upon the sincerity of those of his countrymen who permit them to pass unchallenged: for we submit these assertions, made without authority or reason, are disgraceful to the author and calculated to cause much ill-feeling where cordial and united action should prevail.

THERE are few who will read, without unfeigned regret, the brief notice received by telegram of the death of Mr. John Grigor, which event took place in Kobe on the 13th instant. The deceased gentleman was one of our oldest fellow residents, having been manager of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation in Yokohama nearly fifteen years ago. He subsequently joined the Horaisa Bank in connection with Mr. Goto Shojiro; and since the winding up of that institution Mr. Grigor has been engaged in business of his own. For some time past his health had been very unsatisfactory, and, his medical advisers strongly recommending change, he proceeded to Kobe on the 22nd ultimo. The malady under which he suffered has proved too powerful for a constitution which it is to be feared was weakened by anxiety, and Mr. Grigor finally succumbed at the early age of 41 years.

The lengthened residence of Mr. Grigor in Yokohama; his many excellent qualities; his strict probity, and sound common sense, gained for him many friends who deeply sympathize with his widow and young family in their heavy domestic affliction.

THE reference to the customs duties that would have been received had the tariff been maintained at 20 instead of being reduced to 5 per cent. made by the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun*, is deceptive and untenable. The old tariff provided that fourteen specified articles, including cotton and woollen manufactured goods, should pay 5 per cent.; intoxicating liquors 35 per cent.; all other goods 20 per cent. The tariff convention of 1866 provided for a general revision on the uniform basis of 5 per cent. *ad valorem*. From such figures as are at our disposal, we find the value of the trade for the triennials immediately preceding and succeeding 1866, the year of the tariff convention which has been so often and so unjustly complained of, to be:—

1863-1865...	Yen 67,877,910	Duty collected 1,223,306
1867-1869...	92,343,842	" " 2,023,947

If these figures are correct the result is startling. The value of the trade is collated from the trade returns issued from H. B. M.

legation; and the duty collected was kindly furnished by the custom house. During the period when the mean duty was at least double, if not three times, the present scale, the percentage received only reached 1.8 per cent. When the new tariff came into force the gross value of trade increased 36 per cent.; the duty received increased 65.4 per cent.; and the mean per centage of duty on the gross value of trade grew from 1.8 to 2.2 per cent. It will be interesting to follow the increase in the per centage of duties received under the operation of the tariff convention of 1866. In 1870 the mean per centage of customs duties, making allowance for an abnormal import of rice value \$12,800,000 admitted duty free, was 1.9 per cent. In 1871 the per centage was 2.9; in 1872, 2.6; in 1873, 3.5; 1874, 3.4; 1875, including government goods value \$3,500,000, 2.2; 1875-1876, 4.0; 1876-1877 to 1879-1880, four years, 4.14 per cent.

From this it seems that a low tariff yields a proportionately greater sum of duty than a high one. The trade of 1863-1865 of the value of yen 68,000,000, only returned to the treasury yen 1,223,306. The trade of 1876-77 to 1878-79, of the value of 166,000,000 returned a sum of 6,698,684 yen as duties.

These figures are conclusive so far as they go; and they show beyond question that the reduction of the basis of duty from 20 to 5 per cent. led to an increase of trade of 144 per cent., and an increase of duty receivable of 447 per cent.

We hope the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* will examine these figures, and satisfy itself of the increase due to natural causes and to the operation of the tariff. When that has been done it will be seen that a reversion to a high tariff may yield a higher revenue than the present; but the effect upon trade will be reactionary and serious; for in these questions we must remember the quality of the bulk of goods now paying duty. The cotton cloth and other coarse manufactured goods forming four-fifths of the gross importation, are commodities used solely by the humblest class of the people who must in the end pay the import duty. Add, therefore, one-fifth to the cost of a family's clothing, and that family will undoubtedly use just so much less, preferring dirt and rags to the other burden, upon their slender means.

This journal has never opposed a fair tariff for revenue purposes; but it has never lost sight of the fact that if duties are to be levied for revenue the object of government must clearly be to increase the import of duty paying articles, which resolves itself into the theory now practically demonstrated as sound, that a low rate of duty (we exclude articles of luxury from all consideration) on an increasing trade is better than a high rate which, by diminishing trade defeats itself, and reacts most injuriously upon the people's industry.

MUCH amusement was recently caused at one of the police courts of Newcastle-on-Tyne by the process of what is called "taking a Chinese oath." A sailor on board one of the steamers in the river having assaulted a Chinaman was brought before the magistrates. The prosecutor was "sworn" by breaking two saucers, while the following form of words was recited:—"You shall tell the truth, and the whole truth. The saucer is cracked, and if you do not tell the truth your soul will be cracked like the saucer." We remember seeing a cock beheaded in a consular court in Japan, while a similar formula was repeated, in order to obtain the evidence of a Chinaman in, we believe, a case of manslaughter. There does not

seem ever to have been any such ceremony in Japan. In our consular tribunals, what is usually called "warning" is nothing but a request to the witness to tell the court what he knows of the case; sometimes he is told to speak the truth, or to tell "all the particulars"; but there is nothing like a "warning." He is not threatened with punishment of any kind in case of false witness; no higher power is invoked to add solemnity to what he is about to say; nor do his statements differ in the remotest degree from those he makes every day in the streets to his acquaintances. All the sanctions and penalties, divine and human, which render an oath sacred are totally wanting. We doubt whether there is any legal punishment in Japan for false witness, certainly we have never heard of a case of such punishment being inflicted. This is a subject deserving of some attention, more especially if foreigners ever come under Japanese criminal jurisdiction, however limited.

The injustice to a foreign defendant, or indeed plaintiff, in these cases is obvious. He unless he is charged with some crime, and his foreign witnesses are bound by a solemn oath to speak the truth, while an indictment for perjury is held like Damocles' sword over their heads in case of falsehood; but the Japanese witnesses, and they are generally Japanese in most small police cases, have no such sanction, or no such punishment to fear. English law affirmation may now be substituted for the oath, but in either case the punishment for false witness is the same. In all civilized countries this offence is very heavily punished for the character, property, and even the lives of individuals frequently depend on the truth or falsehood of evidence given in courts of justice. So far as Japanese courts themselves are concerned, it would seem that a law punishing false witnesses with long terms of imprisonment, and directing the judge to order a prosecution where he has good reason to believe there has been such false evidence, would seem to meet the case.

The present attitude of the Japanese authorities towards foreign consular courts is such that it would be almost useless to ask them to extend a law of this kind to evidence given by Japanese witnesses in foreign courts; and it is doubtful whether, for instance, the English law of perjury could ever be made to apply to false witness given by a British subject in a Japanese court. Another point that might well be ascertained is, whether foreigners committing perjury in a foreign court, other than that of their own country, can be indicted in their own court for that offence.

In truth, the whole position is anomalous. Cases are decided every day in British courts here on evidence that would not be listened to in an English court at home; while cases in Japanese courts involving the property or rights of a British subject, may be decided on the evidence of a witness who has taken neither oath nor affirmation, and who has no dread of punishment in case of bearing false witness.

THE monstrous theory, urged by those who advocate the continuance of personal and despotic governments, that the people are unfitted to be represented, or to enjoy any political rights, is one that has been applied to Japan on several occasions during the past few years; but we have never known it to be strained to so fine a point as to form a reason for denying to a Japanese subject the right of trial by jury. The *Japan Mail* says, in connection with the provisions of the new criminal code, "Trial by jury does not find a



place among the new enactments, avowedly because the standard of education among the middle classes in Japan is not sufficiently high to warrant the government in entrusting them with such a privilege."

This reflection upon the education and mental capacity of the Japanese people is the more unjust because it emanates from those persons now forming the government who were a few years ago essentially of the middle—in some cases of the lower—class of the people. To argue that the people are unfitted to decide upon the evidence adduced in a court of justice for and against one of their fellow men accused of the commission of a crime; or upon the merits of a demand arising out of the ordinary conduct of business, is to deny them the possession of the commonest form of intelligence, and declare them incapable of the enjoyment of the rights of free men. The omission from any new code of law of an express stipulation for trial by jury is in itself a grave slight to the people; but the explanation said to be put forward for it is a flagrant insult. Japan is a country where official favouritism is extended in every direction. Every new branch of trade, every new industry, all established undertakings, are invaded by persons supported more or less directly by official influences; and these persons are the most likely to be involved in law suits, especially as trade increases: causes in which they appear must cease to be questions to be considered in the abstract; they will be no longer causes between A and B, or C and D; they will at once assume a new complexion, for the judges will be more or less dependent upon the influences of the party whose connection with the government might render a decision adverse to himself fatal to the judge pronouncing it. We do not insinuate that this would be the case; but we unhesitatingly affirm that the suspicion is sufficient to destroy all faith in Japanese courts or in the administration of justice. Place twelve judges on the bench, and the opinion will be the same; they are paid officials, and consequently unfit to decide causes in which their employers are interested; an argument which derives immense force from the restrictions imposed upon the press and the expression of public opinion.

Much has been deservedly said in praise of the system and results of education in Japan; but now must go forth to the world the declaration of a government, themselves sprung from the lower rank of Japanese society, that the well-disposed and intelligent mass of people composing the best class of Japan, are not merely unfitted to have any electoral or political rights, but are unworthy even to sit as jurymen to decide causes arising among themselves. The mischief this will do cannot be estimated at this moment; it is a fresh and powerful instrument in the hands of the upholders of the extra-territorial jurisdiction of foreign powers in this country. There is, happily, yet time to reconsider this damaging provision in the new code.

THE following paragraph is amusing, especially the insinuation that the little pests had been brought over to London from America. If one mosquito is sufficient to prevent an Irish member from attending to his parliamentary duties, how many would be required to clear Ireland of the turbulent agitators who have succeeded in disgracing the name and sully the reputation of a loyal and generous race of people?

Residence in Japan, with a house on the bluff, would make the existence of gentlemen

like Mr. O'Shaughnessy, M.P., rather lively. They would have essentially a gay time of it.

#### MOSQUITOES IN LONDON.

The *Morning Post* states that mosquitoes have made their appearance in South Belgravia. Mr. O'Shaughnessy, M.P., was stung by one of these insects the other day, and, erysipelas supervening, is now prevented from attending to his parliamentary duties. It is believed that the mosquitoes have been brought to this country in the luggage of American travellers.

There is a story extant of an irritable old gentleman, who had vainly tried to secure a night's repose in a sea-side lodging house, complaining to the landlady that the Norfolk-Howard family had taken absolute possession of her apartments, and that their room was preferable to their company. The reply was not calculated to soothe the excited feelings of the victim. "Sir! there has never been such a thing in my house. If you were troubled with them last night you must have brought them in your portmanteau." It is almost impossible for mosquitoes to be imported in baggage. The state-rooms of a steamer might have let loose a dozen or two in London.

We venture to make an appeal on behalf of a highly industrious class of people, the female tea-firers. These poor women are engaged, as a rule, from an early hour in the morning to five or seven p.m., their work permitting little if any respite during that period. Most of the women have families, from children in arms to little ragged urchins of eight to ten years of age who carry about their smaller brothers and sisters. The children, dirty and neglected, scorched with sun or drenched with rain, as the weather is kind or cruel, are to be seen gathered together outside some of the tea-firing godowns from morning till evening anxiously awaiting the release of their mothers, the elder children, half-starved themselves, wearily endeavouring, with wiles that would be childish if the children did not look so terribly old, to pacify the infants which, clamorous for food, fill the air with their puny wailings. Some mercantile houses, with much thoughtful humanity, provide rooms for these children; and it is an extension of this accommodation that is necessary, and which we believe has only to be asked for to be at once provided.

We do not know whether there are any regulations limiting the hours of labour in tea-firing godowns. The English factory act provides, among other salutary conditions, that no child under 13 years of age shall be employed more than seven hours a day; and that no female above the age of 18 years shall be employed in any factory for more than 10 hours daily and 58 hours in a week, including time for meals of not less than 1½ hours daily. Restrictions of this kind upon labour have proved to be both economical and humane; and should be voluntarily adopted by all civilised communities as a matter of public policy, and irrespective of the quantity of labour which places the labourer at the mercy of the taskmaster. In the very early hours, from 3 to 5 a.m. in the busy season, these women carrying their day's scanty provision and attended by their young families, may be seen wending their way to the tea-firing godowns in the foreign settlement; and at any time between 5 and 7 p.m. they may be seen coming from the godowns more like spectres than human beings. Begrimed with dust that serves to make the unwholesome pallor of their faces the more conspicuous; exhausted with a long day's labour, and faint from the forced inhalation of the deadly fumes of burning charcoal, these women may be seen any evening emerging in gangs to pick up,

from the dust or mud in which they have been grovelling during the day, their little children and then to tramp wearily home, some of the poor creatures living four to six miles away. The sight is grievous: it is one that foreign ladies, softly lodged and daintily clothed, whose hardest labour is a game at lawn tennis or attendance at a ladies' committee meeting, have no conception of. If they had we feel convinced they would be the first to take steps to procure the amelioration of the condition of a class of mute, uncomplaining labourers who work like galley slaves for the daily remuneration of thirty paper sen!

From inquiries cursorily made we find that during the busy season the fires in these godowns are lighted at 3.30 a.m. The work women assemble and commence their work from 4 to 5 a.m.; and between 5 and 7 p.m. they are discharged. Wages vary according to the supply of labour and the exigencies of business, from 28 sen to 43 sen; the ordinary figures being 30 sen, or less than seven shillings sterling per week!

In a late issue we made an appeal on behalf of the children of the tea-firers to the effect that some steps might be taken to have them looked after during the time their parents are engaged in the tea godowns. Our correspondent "W." informed us that this subject had already occupied the attention of some of the lady missionaries, who had opened a school where the younger children were taken care of, and the older ones instructed in the rudiments of education. An examination to test the progress of these children was held at the school house in Sumi-yoshi-cho near the public gardens this morning, when we had an opportunity of making some inquiries about the management of the school. The school room is a part of Dr. Hepburn's mission house, and is occupied rent free, which at the commencement of such an undertaking is a very great advantage. The building, however, is situated too far from the tea godowns to be suitable, and it is hoped that a more favourable building in the settlement will be found although at present there seems little prospect of such being obtainable. The school is attended now by about thirty-six children, although at one time, when a Japanese was sent round to collect them, this number was far surpassed, at times nearly fifty children being present. The instructors are two Japanese young ladies, former pupils in Dr. Hepburn's mission school, who are engaged at small salaries and are under the personal supervision of a European lady. The studies comprise writing, both Japanese and Chinese characters; reading, arithmetic, geography, and singing. The children have also been taught the catechism and to read some parts of the bible, so that it will be seen not only will the children be kept from running about wild in the streets, but will have the advantage of receiving a better education than their parents could have possibly given them. The cost of this school which is very slight, amounting to about yen 13 per month, teachers' salaries included, is defrayed by the Presbyterian Mission and also, we believe, by private subscription. It is thought that fifty children could be taught for about twenty yen per month, but it is hardly probable so many will attend, while the school remains in its present position. The children seem to have made very good progress being able to read stories in Japanese quite fluently. A room has been set apart for the infants, who are attended to by

a Japanese nurse. These children are fed with milk and seem quite happy. Much praise is due to the lady who superintends the work, which must be extremely arduous, and we hope she will be rewarded by seeing the undertaking prosper which we are certain it will, if those connected with the tea business will continue their interest in it, and other suitable premises can be found.

THE letter of "W." in connection with the appeal on behalf of the infant families of the tea-firing women will meet with a warm response from all sections of the community. We can add nothing to this letter at present to further the attainment of the object of those benevolent ladies who have already done so much in the cause of the poor and infirm; in the promotion of the truest form of charity which consists in alleviating the silent suffering of those whose lot in life is harder than their own. The cause speaks for itself. Women and children never yet appealed in vain. Words can not make their prayer more eloquent.

THERE are many calls upon the charity of the residents, but little excuse is necessary for introducing to their notice any movement tending to provide some shelter and care for the families of the tea-firing women. These poor children when gathered together outside the walls of large tea-firing godowns present a spectacle which is not creditable to the settlement and the people in it; and we feel confident that an appeal for aid to carry out a scheme to withdraw these little objects of sympathy from the streets and the weather during the long hours their mothers are hard at work, will receive ample and spontaneous support.

A charitable lady some time ago opened a shelter in Sumiyoshi-cho, of which we recently gave a brief account; and this lady, from her past experience, is sanguine that nursery-schools may be established on a sufficiently large scale for tea-firing godowns generally if suitable localities are available, and a little monetary assistance is forthcoming.

This kind lady, whose name we hope some day to have the privilege of mentioning, has in view a house not far from No. 36; and is also engaged in trying to obtain cheap suitable premises in other directions, in which she will be no doubt successful. The expenses at Sumiyoshi-cho have been very trifling, but there has been no rent to pay; with rent the expenses must be more, and yet a very moderate sum will suffice, for which purpose we invite subscriptions. We are all sorry for the little children, but sorrow in itself is nothing more than an idle sentiment. We shall therefore gladly receive any sum, however small, that may be contributed to the fund, and will place the amount received in the hands of the lady referred to, who will surely render a good account of it.

THE Hongkong Telegraph concludes an article on the Mitsu Bishi Company in the following terms:—

This being the position, it would seem, that there was only one way open by which it was possible for the Mitsu Bishi Company to derive the full benefit of through connection to and from Europe and the United States via the Suez Canal, namely, by working in with one or more of the powerful lines already mentioned, and allowing through freight to be engaged at the highest rates obtainable in Europe or America, receiving such freight at Hongkong, as well as their proportion of freight money for the voyage hence to Japan; the Mitsu Bishi Company, on their side, likewise

engaging through freight for Europe or America, transferring the same to the main lines at Hongkong, under a similar arrangement. By working skilfully on such a system the Japanese had good reason to hope that they might eventually gain the monopoly of the carrying trade as fully as they had already nearly succeeded in doing on the Shanghai lines.

For assuredly under such circumstances, one or more of the competing lines to Japan would have found it impossible to oppose with advantage the national company. In addition to which, and what would seem to be of more importance still to the company, independent steamers would have found it unremunerative to take through cargoes to Japan in the face of an efficient and regular through service to Europe and America, and thus the disturbance to the Japanese Southern Coast traffic, occasioned by these steamers discharging their cargoes in Japan and proceeding in ballast to China ports with freight, and extraordinary low rates, would necessarily have been avoided.

Another difficulty which has lately arisen, is the rapid development of the Coal mines of Kai-ping in Chihli, which if brought to a successful stage, is likely to affect prejudicially both the coal and carrying trades of Japan, it is plain therefore that this company must bestir themselves if they wish to continue to work their lines with advantage.

Ever since the opening of the Hongkong branch line it has been a disputed question whether the freight earned is sufficient to defray the cost of coal and the portage bills of the two steamers employed: and the anomaly of a small company like the Mitsu Bishi placing two of its superior vessels on a line served by four mail companies, and a succession of private steamers, becomes apparent when it is understood that these two vessels are withdrawn from this coast line where no competition whatever is permitted, and from the conduct of the whole carrying trade of the empire, to be placed on a foreign service where success is dependent upon the power to overcome all competition.

We utterly fail to see the slightest foundation for the belief that the Mitsu Bishi or any other company can, by combination or otherwise, acquire the monopoly of any carrying trade beyond this coast; and the monopoly here is so oppressive that its continuance is matter of grave doubt.

We are glad to observe by the most recent papers from home that Dr. Halliday Macartney, English Secretary to the Chinese Legation in England, has received from the Queen the honour of a companionship of the order of St. Michael and St. George, on the occasion of her Majesty's birthday. Dr. Macartney, we believe, first came out to the east in 1857-8, as surgeon to the 99th Regiment, then occupying Canton. He afterwards entered the Chinese service and when it was decided to establish a permanent mission in Europe he was appointed secretary, and accompanied the Marquis Tseng during his recent successful negotiations in Russia.

The only similar honours bestowed on Englishmen in the Chinese service are the companionship of the Bath granted to Colonel Gordon, and Mr. Hart, the Inspector-General of Chinese Customs.

We are informed that Mr. F. E. Foster, the general-agent of the Pacific Mail S. S. Co. for China and Japan, is about to proceed to Hongkong, to which port the head-quarters of the company will be transferred.

Mr. Foster has resided in Japan for some years where his excellent management of the affairs of the P.M.S.S. Co. has done much to restore the popularity of an institution to which the port of Yokohama owes much of its prosperity, and which was, from various causes not wholly unconnected with the company itself, somewhat lowered in public estimation when

Mr. Foster took charge. The many friends of this gentleman will hear of his intended departure with regret; while the good people of Hongkong are to be congratulated upon a change which brings to their social circle such deservedly popular members as Mr. and Mrs. Foster.

Some surprise will be evinced at the transfer of the head office from Yokohama to Hongkong. This port has always been considered the key to Japan and China, forming as it does the junction for the traffic flowing towards the United States from Hongkong and Shanghai, and the other ports of Japan. The P. M. S. S. Co. is so closely identified with Yokohama that the change can not be regarded with satisfaction, though no doubt there are numerous good reasons for it. We only reflect public opinion by expressing regret for the necessity which brings about these changes.

MR. VAN DER POT, newly appointed Minister Resident for the Netherlands to Japan, arrived this afternoon (July 22nd) in H. N. M. S. *Koningin Emma der Nederlanden*.

THE Netherlands corvette *Koningin Emma der Nederlanden* is one of a new class of unarmoured full-rigged first-class cruisers, built on the transverse system, of Landore, Siemens, Martin steel, the hull being covered with teak and zinc. The dimensions of this vessel are;—length 262 feet between perpendiculars; breadth 41 feet; depth 25 feet. The engines were constructed by the Koninklijke Fabriek Works at Amsterdam, and are of the horizontal direct-acting type with a single Mangin screw-propeller 16 feet in diameter. The boilers are four in number; indicated horse power 2,670, and speed 14 knots. In addition to this powerful machinery the vessel can spread 17,060 square feet of canvas. Her armament consists of six 6½ inch, and four 4½ inch Krupp guns.

A SPECIAL meeting of rate-payers was held in Shanghai on the 11th instant to discuss the proposed introduction of tramways into the settlements, and to deliberate and decide upon a request for permission to construct and work such tramways by a proposed company.

The attendance was large, ninety-five gentlemen representing 250 votes being present. Mr. Hughes, H. B. M. Consul, was voted to the chair, and Mr. J. J. Keswick, in a speech explaining very clearly and fully the objects of the scheme, moved the following resolutions:—

RESOLUTION I.—That in the event of the proposed Shanghai Tramway Company being formed and subject to such reasonable conditions as may be agreed upon, the Council be and is hereby authorized to grant to the Company permission to construct and work Tramways along the following routes, viz:—

- 1st.—From the Yang-king-pang along the Chekiang Road to its junction with the Hoopoh Road to the Maloo, and thence along the Chekiang Road to the Soo-chow Creek.
- 2nd.—From the North end of the Honan Road Bridge along the North Soochow Road to the North end of the Garden Bridge, and thence along Broadway to the Ningpo Wharf,

and to give such facilities as may be found necessary for the construction and working of such Tramways.

Mr. Wetmore seconded. The opponents of the measure were Mr. Forbes who moved an amendment to the effect that the rate-payers were not competent to grant the permission required without the consent of the renters of land surrendered for public roads along the proposed line: and that a committee should be appointed to confer and report. Mr. D.

Brand seconded, adding that the streets, which only average 23 feet, of which the tramway would take up 9, were too narrow. Mr. Myburgh questioned the competency of the meeting to define the legal authority of the council. Mr. Keswick took an opportunity to correct some inaccuracies in Mr. Forbes's speech, and met the arguments adduced in favour of the amendment. Mr. H. Evans objected to the scheme for the want of consideration extended towards the dwellers in Hongkew, and moved an amendment to paragraph II of the resolution confining the tramway to the north end of Garden Bridge, which Mr. Galles seconded. Mr. A. J. How having supported Mr. Forbes's amendment, Mr. Drummond questioned the legality of the scheme, and concluded a long speech by moving "a direct negative" to the motion as follows:—

That in the opinion of this meeting, tramways in these settlements are not desirable.

Mr. Wainwright seconded, supporting the view that the rate-payers could not act without the consent of the owners of the land where the tramways are to be laid. Mr. J. G. Morrison having been heard against the legal difficulties, the amendments were put to the meeting with the following result:—Mr. Drummond's; for 75, against 155: lost by 80 votes. Mr. Evans's was lost on a show of hands. Mr. Forbes's; for 82, against 143; lost by 61 votes. The original resolution was then put and carried.

The discussion and passing of three subsidiary resolutions, brought the meeting to a close.

THE following are the imports and exports to and from the ports of Korea, during the half year ended December 31st, 1880.

Exports .....	Yen 907,128
Imports .....	676,438
84,238 of which are Japanese articles.	

Vessels entered and cleared at the ports number 286.

HISTORICAL students have long felt the want of a chart or map illustrating, in form capable of easy and accurate reference, contemporaneous or synchronical occurrences in the record of the world. This want is now supplied. Adams' *Illustrated Panorama of Universal History* is a remarkable piece of work, both in design and execution. A book 28 inches by 13, strongly and handsomely bound, contains the "panorama" 22 feet in length and with a superficies of nearly 48 feet. The stream of time begins with the creation. 4004 of the common era, and, divided into 589 decades, illustrates the contemporaneous history of the world for a period of 5882 years. Some idea of the nature of this work may be gathered from the following outline given by the chart of the great events of the period which witnessed the foundation of Rome 753 B.C., its rise and absorption of the greater portion of the then known continents, its glory, and decline in 395 A.D. Beginning with the reign of Romulus when Isaiah was prophesying and Palestine was invaded by Shalmaneser who carried away the ten tribes which henceforth, merged in the Assyrian empire, became the Lost Tribes, and closed the scriptural kingdom of Israel in 721 B.C., we see the stream of time flowing past the golden days of Babylon when Nebuchadnezzar had for contemporaries Daniel, Ezekiel, Solon, Æsop, Pythagoras and Confucius: when the temple of Diana arose at Ephesus, and Babylon was a city fifteen miles square with walls 350 feet high, 87 feet thick and approached by 100 brazen gates: on past the age of

Pericles, Euripides, Sophocles, Alexander the Great who conquered the world and died in the thirty-third year of his age. When the great wall of China was in course of construction and the first Punic war began, we find Rome under the military tribunes waging war and making conquests everywhere, gradually swallowing, one by one, those countries that had formerly paid tribute to Nebuchadnezzar, Cyrus, and Alexander, until Egypt succumbs and Imperial Rome, with Augustus Cæsar to rule over its golden days, is founded. Contemporaneously with the reign of Augustus is the birth of Christ inaugurating the christian era. Then comes the crucifixion, with Pontius Pilate governor of Palestine, the cruel Tiberius Cæsar emperor of Rome, and Cymbeline and Caractacus ruling over the savages of Britain. Then comes a succession of events which seem to be almost modern. The new testament is written; the Ptolemaic system is declared; the first Œcumenical council is held, and the Roman empire is divided by Theodosius. Then spring into being Britain, France and Germany, Spain, and the Empire of the East. Mahomet rises and founds the faith which has its almost countless millions of believers thirteen hundred years later. With the establishment of the pillory the magic lantern is discovered, spectacles made, and Westminster Abbey built. Gunpowder is invented in 1320; the first cannon is made in 1327. Martin Luther preaches at Worms in 1521. Shakespeare lived to illuminate the world what time Galileo invented the telescope, Harvey discovered the circulation of the blood, and Milton was born. In 1750, when the Roman Empire had become a mere secondary state, Watt discovered steam and founded the true era of civilization. What time Mozart and Beethoven were charming Europe with their divine melodies, Great Britain was losing her American colonies which, but a few years later, were to found the greatest empire in the world. And so, on by the discovery of the electric telegraph, the creation of steamships and railways, to the present day.

Of course, a work of this sort cannot possibly contain more than references to the principal events in history; but these are sufficiently numerous to form a valuable and comprehensive historical chart indispensable to the student, and of great use and assistance to the scholar.

A full key or explanation of the plan of the work accompanies each chart.

MR. MIYAMOTO, chief secretary of the foreign office, has been entrusted with the preparations for the reception of the two sons of the Prince of Wales, who are now making a cruise round the world in the *Bacchante*, one of the ships of the flying squadron under the command of Lord Clanwilliam.

We have all a very high regard for the courtesy and hospitality shown by Japan towards every foreign visitor of distinction; and if his Majesty the Mikado were not about to leave the capital on an extended tour through the northern provinces of his dominions, rendering his presence in Tokio during the stay of the young princes in Japan impossible, the proposed reception would have been thankfully accepted as a fresh indication of regard for Great Britain. As his Majesty, however, cannot return to Tokio before October, there will be no court, and it is possible that any official or semi-official reception under such circumstances may be gratefully but firmly declined by those in charge of the princes, of whom the eldest stands next but one in

succession to the crown of England, and the younger is heir presumptive.

Japan has displayed so many evidences of good will towards foreigners that Englishmen can well afford to accept the kind intention for the act; and it would surely be more consonant with the fitness of things that in the present state of the finances no expenditure should be incurred to furnish fresh and unnecessary proof of the desire of the government to establish their reputation as kind, courteous, and most liberal hosts.

THE *Hochi Shinbun* now states that owing to the absence of his Majesty the Mikado from Tokio during the approaching visit of the Princes Albert Victor and George of England, his Highness Prince Haruhito, father of the Sa-daijin the present representative of the house of Arisugawa, has been deputed to represent the Mikado; while their Excellencies Sanjo Saneyoshi, Daijo Daijin, and Inouye Kaworu, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Hatusuga, an officer of the finance department, have been charged with the preparations which the generous hospitality of this country considers necessary for the reception of distinguished visitors.

THE *Japan Herald* translates from the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* an article on railways in which our native contemporary recommends the adoption of the American system of cheap partial construction at the beginning, completing the work with the proceeds of traffic. In support of its recommendation the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* instances the Poronai railway, quoting boldly from the *Japan Gazette*, without acknowledgment to the author, a letter containing much useful information concerning cost, construction, &c., of that line.

Before urging upon public attention the wisdom of adopting what is called the American system of railways, it is to be hoped the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* will follow the advice it has so frequently extended to its foreign contemporaries; that is, to consider the conditions of the two countries and ascertain beyond doubt whether that which is commendable and successful in a thriving place like the United States will be suitable to a country like this. The question, so far as we are concerned, is not one of engineers. American railway engineers are most capable men of the highest reputation; and their employment in Japan is purely one of expediency and choice; but it is a question of which system is the best for Japan to follow in the construction of her lines. Reasons for and against the American system were fully set out in an article in the same paper from which the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* copied its details of the Poronai railway; and we beg our contemporary to refer to it and meet the arguments it contains.

A TELEGRAM has been received announcing that the P. & O. steamer *Pekin* with the mails from London of June 17th, had been towed back to Singapore with broken shaft; and that the mails, passengers, and treasure, would be forwarded on to Hongkong by the *Deucalion* leaving Singapore at 5 a.m. to-day.

This mail was due in Hongkong July 22nd, schedule time, and the delay will therefore be four or five days at the utmost.

THE *American Ship* is the title of a newspaper published in New York, and supposed to be devoted to commercial and maritime affairs. The editor is, however, not satisfied with merely recording facts; he prefers to fly



into the realms of romance, as witness the following:—

By her double-dealing policy on sea and land, England has alienated herself in a large measure from the sympathies of the civilised world, and must now depend upon her own resources, being unable to claim any of the great nations as an ally to join hands in any of her difficulties. She has no grounds for expecting sympathy from the United States while constantly endeavouring to divide the nation, and undermine its institutions. Her insular position, geographically considered, makes it imperative that she should keep up a show of naval power, however ineffective that power may be in point of practical utility. The unseaworthiness of British vessels, naval and mercantile, is only equalled by the unseaworthiness of her seamen.

No American who values liberty to think and freedom to act for himself, kindred, and country, can contemplate the 'Albion' of Julius Caesar, a mere speck on our planet, assaying to dominate all the rest of the globe, without a rising repugnance of feeling at the thought that he might in any measure contribute to the perpetuity of an oligarchy so odious. To assume that a nation of 'sea tramps' can command the denizens of the civilised world to stand and deliver trade into their hands, at England's own valuation, is too much to think of, much less ask or expect, in the last quarter of the nineteenth century.

This is "tall talking;" but we can readily understand the irritation which is shared by many men, otherwise highly considerate and impartial, at the decline in American shipping. The editor of a newspaper should, however, know better than to publish his vexation for it challenges the retort that if America holds on to her navigation laws England will, without any cut-throat demand upon Americans to "stand and deliver" their trade into her hands, assuredly absorb it all, government subsidies and government protection notwithstanding.

The fault, if fault there is, lies with America not with England. The government of the former nation make vexatious laws which the people resent by employing ships not subject to those laws. Comment is, therefore, superfluous.

We took occasion last month to comment on the passage made by the P.M.S.S. *City of Tokio* which vessel arrived here June 10th after a passage of 17 days 7 hours and 33 minutes, the fastest run from San Francisco with one exception, the voyage of the *Oceanic* in 17 days 4 hours, and we have now much pleasure in announcing that the same company's vessel *City of Peking*, Captain Berry, arrived here yesterday morning in 16 days 19 hours and 14 minutes, making the best outward voyage yet recorded.

The uncertainty of outward voyages has long interfered with the mail and passenger traffic by this route; steamers with immense carrying capacity and small cargoes have little inducement to make "runs" and occasionally twenty and even twenty-four days across are consumed. The example set by the P. M. S. S. Co. will no doubt become general, and the passage from New York in twenty-four, and London in thirty-four, days may be depended on.

We are in receipt of papers dated London June 5th per *City of Peking*.

Much satisfaction will be felt at the tone assumed by the *Mai Nichi Shinbun* towards the Kwausai Boyeki Shokwai. The *Mai Nichi Shinbun* is a fearless and honest journal of large circulation, and its opinions are read and accepted by thousands. Referring to the new trading company our contemporary says that the object is no doubt excellent, as the declining commerce of Japan excites alarm not only among the people but in the government also,

but the scheme of formation is radically bad. The plan was to collect a certain sum of capital from the merchants of Osaka, several having readily subscribed, as the nucleus of the company, and then call upon the government for a loan of 5,000,000 yen at 4 per cent. Fortunately the new regulations will not permit the government to accede to this request, for, as our contemporary puts it, a few privileged individuals would then appropriate 5,000,000 of the taxpayers' money, and grasp the profit to be made out of its working to the disadvantage of the lenders. Again, the experience of several years proves that not one of those people who have borrowed government money have ever made their business profitable, or given the least satisfaction to those concerned. On the contrary, the borrowed capital has been wasted, business stopped and much suffering has resulted. Under such circumstances the success or failure of these companies is alike injurious to the people.

The practice of advancing money to enable a favoured few to speculate with the goods of the people is rightly condemned. All speculators who are in possession of government capital are much in the position of the dishonest gambler who cries "heads I win; tails you lose;" for whatever the result of the venture the profit all goes to the individual and the losses to the state in the form of unpaid and hopelessly unpayable advances. This really means that the money of the people is misappropriated for the purpose of founding a formidable competition with their enterprise, for it will be clear to the commonest understanding that no private person can successfully, nor will even attempt to, carry on any branch of trade so long as a single official, or official protégé, is permitted to interfere therein, and to exploit, for his own benefit or the people's loss, the moneys of the state.

It would be much to the benefit of this country if all official countenance were withdrawn from the trading companies; and the direct interest of the government in the Specie Bank abandoned. When that is done we may look forward to the opening of commerce, and to the present absurdly small quantity of exportable products being doubled and trebled. Foreign countries do not trade here to drain the country of its gold and silver. They want Japanese commodities; and if the nation is poor it can demand payment in any form preferred, gold included.

The following letter has been published in the *Hiogo News*:—

Hiogo, July 6th, 1881.

To the Editor of the *Hiogo News*.

DEAR SIR,—The following may probably have interest for some of your readers:—

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF RAIN-FALL FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF

	1877 Inches.	1878 Inches.	1879 Inches.	1880 Inches.	1881 Inches.
January .....	0.46	2.77	1.07	1.10	1.53
February .....	0.13	2.75	2.41	5.39	0.98
March .....	0.61	2.01	3.85	2.22	3.65
April .....	1.61	4.14	5.73	2.09	3.72
May .....	3.93	6.35	9.04	4.69	10.19
June .....	1.94	4.88	5.30	4.73	14.18
	8.68	22.90	27.40	20.22	34.25

July 1-6..... 0.11 1.61 0.26 6.24 4.64

The first six months of the year 1877 will be remembered as exceptionally dry.

Yours very truly,

JOHN MARSHALL.

This information is not only interesting but useful: and it will be more so when contrasted with the rainfall recorded on the bluff at Yokohama during the same periods, which data we append:—

	1877 Inches.	1878 Inches.	1879 Inches.	1880 Inches.	1881 Inches.
January .....	1.71	3.99	3.36	0.99	2.45
February .....	2.43	4.02	4.39	5.83	11.25
March .....	6.28	3.39	4.86	8.03	6.11
April .....	1.58	5.61	6.63	6.47	4.39
May .....	5.21	6.63	10.65	5.60	1.67
June .....	6.96	8.04	9.35	7.50	15.14
	24.17	31.68	39.24	34.42	41.01

July 1-6 ..... 0.34 2.21 0.04 5.07 1.72

These figures show that during the five half-yearly periods the rainfall in Yokohama exceeded that recorded in Kobe by 57.07 inches, or slightly over 50 per cent.

Mr. Marshall would do good service by furnishing a tabular statement giving the number of days of rain in each month, with dates on which the fall in any twenty-four hours exceeded one inch; together with a memorandum of maximum, minimum, and mean air temperature and any other meteorological data he may possess; not merely for one half of each year but for the whole of the first four years and to date of the last year. If he will do this we will supplement his work with a comparative table of Tokio and Yokohama.

Accounts from the provinces are of an alarming character respecting the weather. In Ishikawa-ken heavy and continuous rain has caused serious injury to the growing crops. Twenty-nine villages were inundated and more or less injured, thirteen houses swept away, and three lives lost. In Niigata and Nagano-ken the rain has been extraordinarily heavy; and the damage done is said to be appalling.

THE *Choya Shinbun* says that Mr. Fukushima, a direct trader in silk and silk-eggs returned on the 9th instant from Italy. A gentleman who accompanied Mr. Fukushima says that shortly after arrival in Italy a report was circulated that Mr. Fukushima's silk-eggs were bad, the consequence being that only 50,000 cards were sold, and those with difficulty, at prices ranging from 5½ francs (\$1.17) to 3½ francs (\$0.74) per card. The loss to Mr. Fukushima must be considerable, but the experience of this treacherous and suicidal trade is worth having, whatever its cost.

THE interest taken by Prince Bismarck in the extension of German trade in the east is shown by a memorial which he has recently laid before the Reichstag, based on reports received from the German minister in Peking. He recommends the adoption of measures for the maintenance and extension of the German export trade to China, the establishment of commission houses for this trade, of a bank to facilitate remittances, and of a line of steamers to China, Australia, and the South Sea Islands, for which a state subvention is urged. The Prince complains that Germany is outstripped in the east, in Australia, and in the South Sea Islands by England, France, and America. As few of the great Chancellor's projects are ever rejected by the German parliament, it is more than probable that we shall soon see extraordinary measures taken to increase the German export trade; and among others, a line of steamers added to the many lines already running out here from Europe and America.

THE English are proverbially a conservative people. They are slow to change, and the result is that institutions which have long lost their original object, and have become useless and even ridiculous, still linger amongst us, until some iconoclast brings them to public notice, which generally means speedy destruction. We must confess ourselves astonished, however, at the revelations made in recent papers from home respecting the uses to which some of the parochial charities in London are still put. Amongst the bequests named is one to a parish for the endowment of an annual feast in which the parishioners who have quarrelled are to meet and settle their differences. The sum left originally was the modest one of five shillings, but this has increased enormously, and sixty or seventy pounds are spent in a dinner at Richmond, or some other pleasant resort, without probably fulfilling the original intention of the testator. Another endowment is given to the clergyman and sexton of a certain church for a service to celebrate the defeat of the Spanish armada, while the failure of the gunpowder plot is similarly brought to the recollection of another parson. Faggots for burning heretics, rescuing christians from slavery to the Moors, and giving bread to poor prisoners in Newgate, are all subjects of endowments; others go to pay the poor rates of parishes full of banks and rich merchants' offices, or to the decoration of empty churches. It is proposed to devote all this money to public purposes. Probably this measure is only the small beginning of a series of acts of parliament dealing with the enormous endowments made for various purposes in the city of London. There can be small doubt that a radical change will be made in these matters before long, and it can not be said that it will come a moment too soon.

IN a well-known passage in his work on Japan Mr. W. E. Griffis attributes the intellectual superiority and brain power possessed, he asserts, by the Japanese, to the great consumption of fish, which, if we remember rightly, he styles "brain-producing." Dr. Beard of New York, however, who is styled "one of the most eminent neurologists," scouts the notion that fish-food is specially fitted for brain nourishment. Referring to this widespread popular notion, he terms it a delusion opposed to chemistry, to physiology, to history, and to common observation. He casts the responsibility for the almost universal acceptance of this delusion, by the Americans at least, upon the late professor Agassiz, "who impulsively and without previous consideration apparently, as was his wont at times, made a statement to that effect before a committee on fisheries of the Massachusetts legislature." The statement became the creed of the people. The well-known phenomenon of the glowing (or phosphorescence) of fish in the dark is popularly believed to indicate the presence of a large proportion of the nutritive element. Chemical analysis, however, fails to substantiate this idea, but demonstrates that the flesh of fish contains a smaller proportion of mineral elements than other forms of animal food. So, if we can trust Dr. Beard, as we may very well do, here is one more pleasant popular delusion gone.

THE swimming matches of the Yokohama Rowing Club, the first of the season, were held on Tuesday afternoon (12th), and as far as competition is concerned, were rather unsuccessful, only one or two competitors out of the

large number of entries presenting themselves. The attendance towards the end, both of members and visitors was very fair, although we rather suspect it was the last match that attracted a good many. The  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile race had, for want of time, to be postponed, and it will come off in a few days.

For the first event, 100 yards, only Messrs. T. F. Talbot and Oppenheimer started. For some distance they kept abreast when Mr. Talbot got ahead and before the half way was several yards in front, and Mr. Oppenheimer gave in. Time 3.43. Only four came forward for the "Headers," Messrs. S. Cope, Boag, G. M. Dare, and Wood, and a tie resulted between Messrs. Cope and Boag. Two more dives were made, the former winning. The 150 yards handicap for which only Messrs. S. Cope and T. F. Talbot entered was won by Mr. Cope by about three yards. Until within ten or fifteen yards of the barge, Mr. Talbot had the advantage, and to all appearances was to win, when he changed his course and allowed Mr. Cope to take the lead: time, 3m. 51 sec. The Long Dive which had five entries—Messrs. S. Cope, Boag, G. M. Dare, Oppenheimer and Playfair—was also won by Mr. Cope, who went a good distance ahead of the others. Another gentleman had, however, the honour of staying longest under water in the second dive. The spectators intently watching for the appearance of his head some where in the neighbourhood of the lightship were greatly astonished to see him come up a yard away from where he dived. The steeplechase was decidedly the best and most enjoyable race of all. There were six starters, Messrs. Wheeler, F. Playfair, Boag, G. W. Playfair, Blackwell, and Cope. The lead was held by nearly all in turn, and it was only at the last sampan that it could be seen who was likely to win. A splendid struggle took place in the distance between it and the barge. Dr. Wheeler won closely followed by Mr. F. Playfair, Mr. Boag third, the others coming on their heels.

The prizes were distributed to the winners, and the meeting terminated.

THE half-mile swimming match of the Yokohama Amateur Rowing Club postponed from the 12th instant, came off last evening (22nd). Out of thirteen entries only two, Messrs. Talbot and Samuels, started. Although it was supposed to be half a mile the time in which the race was won, viz. 13m. 11sec., shows that it must have been considerably less. Mr. Talbot had an easy win over his opponent, who was left behind soon after the start, and although the former went considerably out of his line before reaching the half-way sampan, Mr. Samuels was never able to make up and gave in soon after rounding the boat.

A steeplechase, which had been made up since the meeting, was afterwards competed for by about a dozen gentlemen, and was won by Mr. Stewart, second Mr. Fenner, and third Mr. Playfair; the others coming in some way behind.

THE *Chiugai Bukka Shinpo* announces that a great combination is being formed for the conduct of trade, especially foreign trade; and an effort will be made to extend the system to those countries where Japanese merchants reside. The chief firms to be represented are the Nippon Shokwai, Mitsui Bussan Kaisha, Okura, Kiriu Koshio Kwaisha, Morimura, Kogio-Shokwai, and Boyeki Shokwai, and the new society will be called Doshikokwai. An ominous feature about this new association is that it will be confined to merchants of Tokio and Yokohama,

only, for the reason that those in remote places cannot participate in the advantages of the society. This is the policy which the Japanese press should condemn. The exclusion of the people from trade except through these guilds is hurtful to their interests in the highest degree; and forms another illustration of the ease with which interested persons can prevent an extension of commerce, and stultify the declarations of the government to the effect that the "policy of maintaining relations of amity and commerce with foreign powers was frankly adopted," while the guilds which exercised a "monopoly of trade were at once abolished as opposed to the principles of political economy" (*Vide* H. E. Okuma in the General View of Finance)

THE *Chiugai Bukka Shinpo* furnishes some additional particulars of the new silk association, of which the following is a close translation.

"Messrs. Hara Zensaburo, Mogi Sobei, and Shibusawa Hisaku, with the Boyeki Shokwai and the branch of the Mitsui Bussan Kwaisha, propose to organize, at the old Kiito Aratame Gaisha, an association for the conduct and control of silk business; and they have decided to lend money upon silk sent down from the producing districts, and themselves transact all sales with foreigners at that place. All wholesale silk merchants have joined this association; and the three gentlemen above-named, with Mr. Asafuki Yeiji, of the Boyeki Shokwai and Mitsui Bishi Steamship Company, and Mr. Umagoye of the Mitsui Bussan Kwaisha, have been appointed directors. Operations will commence in August.

"If this business becomes really extensive our merchants will get rid of the monopoly of foreigners, and no greater benefit can accrue to them than this. But we advise the directors not to raise the price indiscriminately and keep silk unsold because they are strong enough to lend money upon it."

These repeated announcements of exactly the same tenor seem to point clearly to the establishment of a powerful dictation seriously affecting the conduct of the most important branch of trade in Japan.

THE *Mai Nichi Shinbun* is responsible for the statement that a certain Prince Hisachika, now resident in Kioto, is about to make an extensive tour throughout the empire, commencing with Kochi ken, for the purpose of endeavouring to check the spread of christianity.

IN spite of the bad weather and in consequence of the great exertion of a distinguished member of the consular body, there was a good audience at the farewell concert of Madame Carandini last evening (July 8th). The troupe has been unfortunate here; arriving after the regular season had finished they have had the additional misfortune of weather which in itself would tend to keep away many who would otherwise have attended the concerts. This being the case it was determined to make a special effort for the farewell performance and we cannot sufficiently thank the amateurs, both ladies and gentlemen, who so cheerfully came forward on this occasion. In fact, the whole of the instrumental music (with the exception of one number) was contributed by a few members of the choral society and other friends. These consisted of half a symphony by Haydn; a trio by the same master; a duet arranged from Mendelssohn's violin concerto, and the *violino obbligato* accompaniment to Robandi's celebrated air "Alla stella confidente." These were all rendered in a very

pleasing manner; and if the selection was not all that could be desired still we are none the less indebted to the executants, especially the lady performers. It is true that the *tempi* might, in most of the movements, have been quickened with advantage; but we must not be hypercritical as the fault of playing too slowly is common to nearly all amateurs.

We understood that we should be favoured with some vocal music from the lady-amateurs, but suppose that must have been a delusion, as the only song besides those contributed by the members of the operatic company was Mattei's "Non é ver?" Madame Carandini sang Gabriel's "Forsaken." Miss Carandini was applauded to the echo, and recalled after the air "Alla stella confidente." Mr. Fischer obtained the sympathies of the French and German members of the community by his rendering of Gounod's "Nazareth" and Schubert's serenade; while Mr. Sherwin contributed his share of the various concerted pieces.

We should mention that the pianoforte used last evening was generously lent by the president of the German Club, and that there was a good sprinkling of Tokio visitors at the entertainment. We are sorry to see that another concert is advertised for to-morrow. In the first place this is impolitic, for no one can expect to get an audience in Yokohama on mail-night; and, secondly, such action as this, after ladies and gentlemen have consented to assist at what purported to be the last performance, is, we consider, a breach of faith towards the public in general, and towards our musical amateurs in particular.

THE comet was clearly visible last night (24th ulto.) at nine o'clock in a direction almost due north. The distance from the earth is rapidly increasing, and the brilliancy of the orb and tail diminishing.

We learn, but on very bad authority indeed, that a meeting of the leading foreign representatives was held at the Club Germania to-day (17) to settle some concerted regulations to mark the progress of time, and vary the monotonous silence that hangs over the settlement. The gentlemen present were clearly of opinion that each consulate should provide a thirty-five ton gun to be fired at sunrise, 8 a.m., noon, 4 and 8 p.m., and midnight; time to be calculated by treating the longitude of the respective capitals as zero in order to prevent the simultaneous explosion of two or more guns. On the celebration of any national event by any of the fifteen treaty powers (which is done about three hundred and seventy-five times in the course of the year), each consulate will fire a salute of twenty-one guns within an hour, alternately, commencing with the consulate of the nation which is fortunate enough to have a national event to celebrate; the remaining nine hours will be filled up by salutes from ships of war, the forts, &c. The birthdays of absolute monarchs will be marked by a *feu de joie*, accompanied by dynamite explosions. Similar anniversaries of distinguished persons, independence day, the fall of the Bastille, &c., will be duly celebrated on a sliding scale, the lowest form of which is a running fire of revolvers, blank cartridges, Chinese crackers, &c. performed in the main streets of the settlement.

Sunday morning is to be ushered in by the simultaneous discharge of all the consular guns at daybreak; a full response to be made by every man-of-war in harbour with its heaviest artillery.

By measures of this sort the authorities hope to arouse the patriotism of their nationals, and

ensure the proper respectful observance of those great events which threaten to be overlooked if active measures are not adopted to remind the handful of people here that they have each a separate duty to perform, irrespective of the annoyance its performance may be to all others.

The most eligible situation for the enjoyment of the treat to be provided will be, of course, the bund, which is, figuratively speaking, in a state of perpetual bombardment. Rent is, however, rapidly rising in that locality; and it is with a view of conferring upon the rest of the settlement similar advantages that the consuls will each keep up a running fire from their big guns on every occasion which can be possibly strained into an excuse for so doing.

A proposition made at the meeting to fire minute guns was vetoed; but a suggestion is being considered whether hourly guns would not be of greater service to the community than the dozen or so fired at intervals by each consulate during the twenty-four hours.

THE French community were *en fête* yesterday (14th) in commemoration of the anniversary of the fall of the Bastille in 1789. All their business firms and the banks were closed, and their houses decorated with a profusion of lanterns and flags. A banquet had been prepared on the site of the French camp, which had also been festooned with lanterns. At 7.30 p.m. the banquet commenced. Nearly eighty or ninety persons sat down to table, and among others the French Consul and the officials of the Consulate were present.

A varied and select repast had been prepared and was enjoyed by those present. After the cloth had been drawn several speeches were made and toasts drunk, the Consul proposing "La République" which gave the patriots an opportunity of shouting "Vive la République," which they did with great empressement, the eclives of which were heard for some distance. This was followed by several other toasts, Mr. Dallas proposing the "French Colony" in the name of those members of the English community who were present.

Some fireworks varied the proceedings which were enlivened by an excellent Japanese band. After the banquet the French Consul, M. Jouslain, held a reception.

THE accusations made against Sir Harry S. Parkes, Her Majesty's minister to Japan, are being narrowed to a point. Sir E. J. Reed founded the charges contained in the unjustifiable introduction to his work on Japan on the articles which had appeared at frequent intervals in the *Tokio Times*, then conducted by the person who subsequently recapitulated them in another not less virulent form in the pages of the *Atlantic Monthly*. "Asiaticus," a correspondent of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, apparently acting in concert with the others, drew attention to the article in the *Atlantic Monthly*. Sir E. J. Reed then followed in a letter to *The Times* in which he said, referring to the charges contained in his book, "every one of these statements (with one exception named) is perfectly true." Sir Harry Parkes, under the correct impression that he should no longer remain silent, replies, in these emphatic words:—"Though silent under the refutation of the reviewer, Sir E. J. Reed now declares in your columns, that all those statements with the exception of the last are perfectly true. I therefore feel called on to give them an equally unequivocal denial, and to state that they are all and

severally untrue." To this letter Sir E. J. Reed replies in another reprinted in this issue; and without attempting to substantiate any of the accusations so freely made he still endeavours to give them colour by saying that during his stay in Japan he came to the conclusion "it was high time a change of minister should occur." Turning again to his book we find nothing in support of assertions which no person of honour would have ventured to make without real, unequivocal proof, but phrases such as, "I am told;" "it is we are said to;" "I am recording what I heard from others" &c. with the addition of these significant words:—"The members of the Japanese cabinet are not, so far as I know, the authors of these complaints; to me, at least, they were exceedingly reticent on all such matters, exhibiting a delicacy of sentiment in this respect which we can only admire."

Sir E. J. Reed is followed by Mr. House, who cites as witnesses General Grant and Sir John Pope Hennessy. Let impartial judges peruse the reflections of General Grant on English policy in the East detailed in Mr. John Russell Young's book; and Sir John Pope Hennessy's speeches in Japan; and ask themselves if an English minister, deservedly esteemed and respected by all residents, some of whom were here before Sir Harry Parkes came to Japan, should be placed upon his defence on charges which have no better grounds to rest upon than the superficial opinions formed by travellers who had nothing more than a casual acquaintance with a people whom the most experienced resident is, year by year, more thoroughly puzzled to understand?

THE *Mai Nichi Shinbun* announces that among several plans for the regulation of silk sales, that has been selected which provides for the discontinuance of the practice of submitting parcels of silk to foreign firms for inspection prior to purchase. This business will, from the 1st September, be transacted in Honcho Rokuchome, Yokohama, where all silk is to be stored, and where intending purchasers can attend to make their inspections.

Our contemporary adds a little information of the greatest importance. It is that as all silk brought from the producing districts will be stopped at this establishment, a large capital is naturally required; and a proposition is made to apply to the government for an advance of 750,000 yen.

SEVERAL contradictory rumours respecting the date of the Mikado's departure on his northern tour are afloat, says the same journal, but it is now said to be definitely fixed for the 30th instant. The estimated cost of the journey, originally 200,000 yen, is now increased to 250,000 yen.

A RICH coal mine deposit has been discovered at Kikushima-Gori, Iwaki; and the proprietor is now making arrangements to work it.

A MURDER was committed on Thursday (14th) night, at a tea house known as Ishiura's on the hill opposite the Cliff-house dairy, and overlooking the sea. The housekeeper was the victim, and revenge not robbery is supposed to have been the motive for the crime. Our readers will recollect the record of a murder of a woman at this tea-house, in May last. We endeavoured to ascertain whether the murderer had been detected, but the police apparently knew nothing of the matter.



THE passion for what is called direct trading is spreading. Some enterprising people, says the *Hochi Shinbun*, have formed a company at Maibashi under the name of the Jiomo Kwai-sha, for the purpose of directly exporting silk and other products of that district. The formation of these companies seems to point to the belief that any Japanese, experienced or otherwise, can carry on commerce of this kind. They will all have to pay heavily for their experience.

On Thursday evening, the 14th instant, a farewell meeting of the members and congregation of the Union Church was held in the lecture room attached to the Church in honour of Dr. L. H. Gulick, pastor, who is leaving Japan for China in order to take charge of the American Bible Society's work in the Celestial Empire, which has increased so very much of late as to render Dr. Gulick's permanent presence on the spot an absolute necessity. About fifty persons were present, and the meeting was opened with prayer by the Rev. Mr. Soper, after which the Rev. J. H. Ballagh delivered an address. Miss Ballagh then gave a recitation, and Mr. Haffenden a reading, after which refreshments were handed round. Rev. Mr. Bennett, Mr. Haffenden, and Mr. Elmer then delivered addresses and the meeting was brought to a conclusion by a speech from Dr. Gulick. The calling of Dr. Gulick to another field of labour is very much felt by his parishioners here, by all of whom he is held in the highest respect.

THE prizes presented by Mr. Beretta to the Yokohama Rifle Association were competed for on Thursday, 14th instant.

	700 yds.	800 yds.	total.
Mr. Gilbert .....	48	36	84 points.
" Cameron.....	39	29	68 "
" Bland.....	33	25	58 "
" Barnard.....	18	33	51 "
" Favre-Brandt ...	18	30	48 "

The winner of the first prize thus scored 84 points out of a possible 100; and at the 700 yards came short by 2 only of a complete record of bulls' eyes!

FROM the *Chiugai Bukka Shinpo* we gather the following particulars of dividends paid by four companies for the half-year ended June 30th last.

The Specie Bank...	4 yen equal to	8% per annum.
Tokio Stock Exchange.....	25 "	" " 50 " "
Yokohama Stock Exchange.....	32 "	" " 64 " "
Tokio Marine Insurance Co. ....	5 1/2 "	" " 11 " "

The *Amoy Gazette* says:—It is rumoured among the native population that intelligence has reached this port (Amoy) that the inhabitants of Wun Chiu and Tai Chiu have revolted and are committing tremendous depredations and that the Imperial troops under the famous Tin-tai Ngo Ong Guan, *Alias* Ngo Puat, formerly an Amoy boatman, who thirty years ago, bravely distinguished himself by fighting and dispersing the rebels at this port, had gone and met them, and after three unsuccessful battles, the imperialists were repulsed with losses. Owing to the critical state of affairs Ngo Ong Guan has thought proper to send his family to Amoy, where they are at present. Rumours are also prevalent that the inhabitants of Keng Chiu (province of Kwangtung) have likewise revolted.

## Law Reports.

H. B. M. COURT FOR JAPAN.

Before R. T. RENNIE, Esq., Judge.

Wednesday, July 13th, 1881.

YENOMOTO YASOBEI vs. CAPTAIN OF THE BRITISH BARQUE *Ordovic*.

Claim for damages amounting to 574 yen sustained through a collision.

Adjourned from the 28th ultimo.

The plaintiff did not appear when the court opened this morning, and as the former mate of the *Ordovic* was expected to arrive in Yokohama during the day, his Honour adjourned the hearing till 3 P.M.

The court re-assembled at 3.30 p.m. when the plaintiff appeared. He again requested His Honour to adjourn the case as his witness had not yet arrived.

His Honour said the court could not again adjourn, having given plaintiff sufficient time, and as judgment had been prepared.

The following judgment was then read:

I have with the assistance of a nautical assessor, (Captain McDonald) given careful consideration to this case and am satisfied from the evidence produced, that immediately before the collision the *Ordovic* was close hauled on the port tack, and that the junk was going free on the starboard tack. Under the circumstances it was obviously the duty of the junk to have given way to the *Ordovic*; but it is clear that she had a bad look out and that if she changed her course at all before the collision she luffed up when she ought to have done exactly the reverse. If she had held her course it seems probable that the collision would have been avoided; and the nautical assessor is of opinion that the manoeuvres of the barque, considering that she was close-hauled on the port tack, and sighted the junk first on her lee-bow, were not improper.

I must then hold that the junk was solely to blame for the collision which occurred, and dismiss the petition.

Thursday, July 14th, 1881.

L. C. MAFEN vs. J. GRIGOR.

Claim for \$1,500.

Mr. Bellasis appeared for plaintiff.

Mr. F. A. Cope as the friend of the defendant, asked that the case be dismissed, as he had received a telegram from the defendant's brother in Kobe, informing him of the defendant's death.

Mr. Bellasis asked that the case be tried, as Mr. Cope was present for the defendant.

His Honour said Mr. Cope appeared only to give the court notice of the defendant's death.

Mr. Cope added that Mr. Grigor had shown him a receipt for the money claimed before he left for Kobe, and the receipt would doubtlessly be found amongst his papers.

Mr. Bellasis said he could prove that such was not the case.

Mr. Cope was sworn and repeated his statements producing the telegram.

The case was then dismissed.

Thursday, July 14th, 1881.

ALEX. CLARK vs. ANDREW JAFFRAY.

Plaintiff petitioned the court to oblige the defendant to remove some Japanese houses on plaintiff's property, lot No. 123, defendant having in contravention of the terms of the lease and of the title-deeds, let a portion of the said property to Japanese, and allowed them to erect buildings thereon.

Defendant denied having let the ground to Japanese.

Alexander Clark, sworn, said:—I am the proprietor of lot No. 123, Yokohama. I have here the lease and title-deeds of the property, which I bought from Mr. Benson's executors. (Lease and title-deeds produced, and marked Exhibits A. and B. respectively.) I received a letter from the British consul stating that the Kenrei had made a complaint about the Japanese being allowed to occupy my property. After this a notification was published in the *Japan Herald* warning British subjects against allowing Japanese to build on their ground in the settlement. I went to the English consul then, and afterwards wrote a letter to the defendant. (Letter produced. Exhibit D.) I received no answer whatever. After seeing the consul again, I wrote a second letter but without effect. The defendant sub-let the ground to the Japanese without permission from H. M. consul or the Japanese authorities. I know this as I made enquiries at the consulate and at the Kencho. He also allowed the Japanese to build several houses or rather sheds, which is against the terms of the lease. I wrote to him, but received no reply. If I allow Japanese to build on the lot without the permission of the British consul and Japanese government, the ground will revert to the Japanese.

His honour said he could not receive this statement without evidence.

Mr. Clark said Mr. Dohmen had written him to that effect.

His honour said plaintiff might call Mr. Dohmen to testify to his signatures on the letters.

Cross-examined by the court:—I know that the defendant let the ground to Japanese, as I went to those who live on the property and asked them who let the ground and to whom they paid the rent. They said the defendant's black servant collected the rent.

Mr. Jaffray had no questions to ask.

Mr. Dohmen was then called to give evidence and when duly sworn said: I received two complaints against Mr. Clark from the Kenrei. The first of these is dated May 17th last; in this the Kenrei stated that Mr. Clark had disobeyed the terms of the lease, and he therefore requested me to confiscate the property. In the second letter which is dated June 29th he states that Mr. Clark in contravention of the rules of the Convention of 1866 had allowed Japanese to put up sheds, and requested me to order him to remove them at once. I communicated this to Mr. Clark. I issued the notification which appeared in the *Japan Herald*, warning British subjects against letting property in the settlement to Japanese. Mr. Jaffray has not applied for permission to allow the buildings to remain, nor has any one done so on his behalf.

To Mr. Jaffray:—The Kenrei has asked me whether I had any objection to a lease of the premises being granted to Japanese. I refused to allow it. I have not allowed any

lots to be so occupied in any portion of the settlement. You came to see me about this business. I am aware that you applied to the Russian consul, and to the Japanese authorities.

The defendant was then put into the box and sworn:—This property in question has been occupied by me as a livery stable for the last thirteen years. About ten years ago I took a portion of it from Mr. Benson, with similar tenements as are there now. A portion of them were then occupied by Japanese. Some time after that, I renewed the lease from Mr. Benson, but before I renewed it, Mr. Benson brought a case, similar to this one, before H. B. M. Court against me, respecting the Japanese who were occupying the houses.

Copy of the report of the case published in the *Japan Mail* handed in and marked exhibit E.

The complainant was non-suited. A short time after that the lease was renewed, under the distinct understanding that I could sublet the premises to whom I pleased. I afterwards did so to a Russian subject named Janssen. I have here a copy of this lease: marked Ex. F.

About a month ago I received two letters from the plaintiff. They are marked Exhibits D and E, I believe. I called on H. B. Acting-Consul, and showed him the letters. He advised me to call at the Kencho, and ascertain against which Japanese the complaint was made. I did so, but could get neither assistance nor information. I then saw the Russian Consul, who informed me that my sub-lessee had left Yokohama, and would not return for some months. I also showed him the letters. He said he could not assist me in any way as according to Russian law the sub-lessee had done nothing wrong. The Japanese who is on the place represents himself to be Mr. Janssen's servant. Of the rest of the property, one portion is let to Mr. Anderson a British subject and a contractor. The remainder of the lot is unoccupied as the whole of the buildings on the lot were burnt down in December last. Since the fire, as there is only a short portion of the lease to run, I did not think it worth while to rebuild them, and I could not do anything else than let the place as I did. I consider the petition is wrong inasmuch as I cannot take on to remove other people's servants or houses. I could not be expected to reconstruct good buildings with only a short part of the lease to run.

To Mr. Clark:—I know nothing of the convention between the governments of Great Britain and Japan. I never saw the title-deeds. I do not know how many houses Mr. Janssen has on the property. I do not know that Japanese have built on the property. I have not sub-let any of the land to Japanese, nor have I built any houses on the lot. I have let the ground to Mr. Janssen and Mr. Anderson. Mr. Janssen pays \$10. Mr. Anderson pays \$5. My servant pays the balance.

Mr. Clark said he was extremely sorry, but he was forced to say that the defendant had perjured himself.

The judge sternly ordered the witness to withdraw these words an injunction which was promptly obeyed.

Mr. Jaffray had nothing to add to his statement.

Judgment reserved.

July 18th, 1881.

#### JUDGMENT.

In this suit the plaintiff claims relief against the defendant on the ground that the defendant being tenant under him of certain land situate in the foreign Settlement of Yokohama, known as lot 123, has imperilled his, the plaintiff's title to that property by—1st sub-letting the lot to Japanese without an official act of authorization in contravention of the terms of the title deed; 2nd constructed or allowing to be constructed, on the lot, certain sheds or buildings of a character prohibited by article VI of a certain convention between H. M.'s minister and the Japanese authorities, made in the year 1866.

As regards the first point the defendant denies that he has sublet the lot or any portion of it, to Japanese, and the plaintiff has failed to produce any evidence that he has done so. As regards the second point it is clear that the sixth article of the convention of 1866 has no application to the land in question. That article only professes to affect buildings to be erected upon any lot of land comprised within the plan annexed to the convention marked A, and a reference to that plan and to the third article of the convention shows beyond all doubt, that the land comprized by the plan consists only of eight particular blocks of land amongst which lot 123 is certainly not included. The plaintiff fails therefore on both parts of his case, and his petition must be dismissed with costs.

Thursday, July 21st, 1881.

ABBOTT vs. COOK and COOK vs. ABBOTT.

Mr. Hill appeared for Mr. Abbott and Mr. Lowder for Mr. Cook.

The court sat to-day to receive the account of the referee.

Mr. Hill said he objected to some of the conclusions arrived at by the referee, and that he proposed now to revise the accounts.

His Honour said the report must be taken as read.

Mr. Hill said he had not many points to which he took exception to, but he hoped these would be reformed. As there had not often been such large cases of reference before the court, he did not exactly know by what rules he was to be guided by.

His Honour said rule 50 was the only one which they had to look at, which says that the court may adopt completely or partially the decision or finding of the referee.

Mr. Hill said that during the reference all the accounts were gone through carefully and afterwards both counsel made arguments which lasted several days. He thought the referee had not quite followed the letter of the law during the proceedings before him. There were some issues of veracity between the two parties and the referee had neglected to show how he arrived at his conclusions on these points. The results of the calculations were as far as he (Mr. Hill) knew, quite correct. The referee should in fact have given more reasons for his having arrived at certain conclusions than he did. The referee had also touched on what were, in Mr. Hill's opinion, irrelevant points. Mr. Hill said he would enter into the different parts of the finding which he disputed; the first was in the 8th voyage account where Mr. Abbott is debited with \$1,883, which was wrong. As a matter of fact the defendant Cook received on account of the voyage \$3,900 or gross \$4,400 besides demurrage \$940, and this is the issue between the accounts and the finding of the referee.

Exhibit E which is a promissory note, has no direct reference to the north-west charter. This promissory note is dated after the ninth voyage was completed and the tenth voyage about to be undertaken, and the referee has wrongly concluded that exhibit E represented the north-west charter, and no evidence will be found in the records of the hearing before the referee, to connect the promissory note with the north-west charter only. The item \$2,517 was made up of exhibit E, and \$500 commission claimed by Mr. Cook, an item of \$82.99, the proceeds of bill of exchange of £600, three boxes of copper cuttings, &c., all charged in the ninth voyage, and before the date of ex. E which included, according to the referee, every thing Mr. Cook received up to the date of exhibit E, but this was not the case, Mr. Cook having received more.

Mr. Hill put in a paper showing how the amount plaintiff claimed differed under this head from the conclusion arrived at by the referee. He contended that the promissory note was a settlement of all the transactions up to that time including the £600 draft, and that the referee was wrong in not including the £600 draft in the promissory note and the issue is, that in the referee's opinion the amount of the bill of exchange was received by Mr. Abbott while it was in reality received by Mr. Cook.

Mr. Lowder said that as the referee, Mr. Enslie, had merely acted as juryman, it was Mr. Hill's proper course to ask for a rehearing of the case.

His Honour said that it was probably the last day he would be able to sit and that it remained open to the counsel to decide whether they would be able to finish their arguments to-day, and he would give a summary judgment during the course of next week, or whether they would wish to leave it to Mr. Robertson, who would act as judge during his absence.

Mr. Hill said it would not take him long to go through his arguments, and Mr. Lowder thought he would be able to finish in half an hour, so it was decided that Mr. Hill should give the heads of his objections and leave it for his Honour to consider them and give judgment before his departure. Mr. Hill said that the evidence of his client had been set aside by the referee, although corroborated by a Chinese servant, and that he had not given sufficient reasons for doing so. It would be seen that the referee had from beginning to end taken Mr. Cook's evidence as fact, and by doing so, implied that Mr. Abbott had not told the truth.

Mr. Hill next took objection to the *Abrek* account for \$1,524 in which the referee had decided that Mr. Abbott had received the money while there is no evidence to support this.

His Honour asked Mr. Hill only to give the heads of his objections, and he would ask Mr. Enslie afterwards for the reasons he had in coming to the conclusions.

The next item Mr. Hill disputed was the *Chrisophoro Colombo* for coal, amounting to \$999 which the referee has found against his client. Then after this came the *Tennessee* coal item which Mr. Abbott denied having ever received and which Mr. Cook says he does not remember whether he received or not, but if he did it was paid to Mr. Abbott. The evidence if Mr. Playfair had been called to testify whether a cheque had been cashed by Mr. Cook on the paymaster of the U. S. Navy, but he had refused to give an answer.

Mr. Lowder denied that Mr. Playfair had

refused to give evidence and on reference to the report of the case it was found that he had said that upon looking over the book he was unable to find such an entry.

At 1.30 p.m. the court re-assembled and Mr. Hill continued to state his objections to the report of the referee. The item for pilotage amounting to \$495 which his client had claimed as being payable by the ship and which had been disallowed by the referee through the latter having, Mr. Hill alleged, put a wrong interpretation on a clause of the charter party which had been drawn out by an inexperienced merchant's clerk and which was rather obscurely worded. Mr. Hill next objected to certain items in Mr. Cook's account sheet being allowed, the referee having no proof for either allowing or disallowing any of the items of this account.

Mr. Hill next called the court's attention to his client's account current, abstract F., which showed the amounts received by him from Mr. Cook, which account had been compiled from his, Mr. Abbot's, private memorandum and some trust could therefore be placed in it, whilst Mr. Cook's account had been mostly made out from memory, and no great reliance could be placed on it. Items 7, 9, 10 and 11 are the only ones in Mr. Cook's account which were not entered into Mr. Abbott's books.

Mr. Ensle, the referee in answer to a question put by Mr. Hill, said that he had not gone into the books of either of the parties as they were, in his opinion, wholly unreliable, and he had therefore come to his conclusions from the evidence only.

Mr. Hill said that if this matter had only been a question of accounts between merchants, it would have simply been proper to have called in experts, but as Mr. Ensle had had some experience in those matters he did equally as well, and he, Mr. Hill, would have accepted his decision as final, but as it involved a question of veracity, and as the referee, with the exception of the *Christophoro Colombo* item where Mr. Cook had positively and repeatedly sworn that he had not received any money from Mr. Noble, and at the time it appeared that this would have been borne out when he, Mr. Hill, had called in Mr. Noble and it had been proved that Mr. Cook had received the money. In this the referee has found Mr. Cook was in the wrong, but in all other parts his client had been found to have stated what was not the truth and without sufficient evidence. Mr. Hill said that at the trial and during the hearing before the referee he had repeatedly questioned Mr. Cook about his other books but the latter had repeatedly refused to produce them and in fact had denied their existence although accounts in the old ledger had been on several pages carried to a new one, and in face of this Mr. Cook had had the audacity to still deny the existence of any books other than those already in court. Mr. Hill also impugned Mr. Cook's truthfulness on several other points. An item which Mr. Hill had overlooked in the morning, amount \$480, for some old copper which the referee had decided against his client and which he considered as being wrong, and in this as in the other parts of the report the referee had not considered it his duty to give reasons for his finding.

This completing Mr. Hill's statement Mr. Lowder then addressed the court, going over the items which Mr. Hill had objected to. Mr. Lowder in the course of his argument commented upon the charges Mr. Hill had brought against Mr. Cook, and

which he considered as being very serious charges to be made by a lawyer, and it was his duty to his client to say that the words used by the counsel, that the evidence of the witness was deliberately false, were not borne out by the evidence. Mr. Lowder thought it would require much stronger reasons than those brought by the opposite counsel to disturb the finding of the referee, who, after a very long and patient hearing, had come to conclusions on these points, which every one must consider as being unimpeachable. Mr. Lowder then spoke on behalf of his client at some length.

His Honour, before adjourning, said he would ask the referee his reasons for the conclusions he had come to in the various items disputed by the counsel, and give judgment.

#### U. S. CONSULAR-GENERAL COURT.

Before T. B. VAN BUREN, Esq., *Consul-General*.  
Monday, July 18th, 1881.

In the matter of the complaint of J. J. E. LORENTZEN, mate of the ship *Benjamin Sewall* against Captain B. SEWALL of the said ship, for disrating, and abusive treatment.

As the judgment given below dwells fully and explicitly on the chief issues of this case, we refrain from publishing the evidence on account of its great length. The report of the nautical assessors is also given.

#### JUDGMENT.

To arrive at the exact facts in an enquiry like the present one is, as every one having experience in such matters, knows, an extremely difficult task.

I have thoroughly questioned every witness produced before me by the complainant and the master; and have carefully examined the papers submitted to me by the complainant, and the daily log of the ship, no mention of the occurrence being in the official log, in addition, I have called in, as *amici curiæ*, two skillful and experienced nautical gentlemen, who, at my request have thoroughly examined the complainant in matters of seamanship and reported to me the result of such examination, and their opinions thereon.

From the testimony and papers it appears that the complainant, who is a Dane by birth, and naturalized in the United States, shipped in the ship *Benjamin Sewall* at New York on the 9th of February last, as mate or first officer at \$45 wages per month. On the second day after leaving port, he testifies:—"The master, at table, asked me if I did not feel uncomfortable, I replied no? He then asked me how could I do such a thing to him as chief officer? I suppose he meant, 'I should not have shipped with him as chief officer: I told him I was qualified and experienced, and did not know why I should not ship with him as well as with any other captain. Nothing had occurred that I know of to call for the master's remark.'"

On the 21st of February, two days after this, the captain informed him that he did not want his services as chief officer, and ordered him to remove to the cabin of the third officer and this degradation was announced to the officers and crew called aft for that purpose. At first the complainant refused to perform duty as such third mate or boatswain as he was called, whereupon he was assaulted and beaten by the master, and finally consented to go to work, and did so.

Thereafter, during the whole voyage, according to his testimony, which is not contradicted, he was made to do the most menial duties of the ship, and was subjected to the insolence of officers and crew alike. If the evidence justified me in finding the complainant was not qualified to act as first officer, certainly no justification or excuse has been shown for the assault by the master, or for the degradation placed upon the complainant by setting him at the most menial and offensive tasks, and subjecting him to the jeers and jibes of the crew.

Says the law "As the power to disrate is remedial only and not penal, the master cannot degrade a person to the lowest station if there be an intermediate one which he is competent to fill." Then in *Smith vs. Jordan*, U. S. C. C. Mass, 1857, 21 Law. Report 204, it was held, that a cooper could not be disrated to do the duty of a foremast hand, but he should first be tried as cooper's mate. In the present case the complainant was removed from the position of first officer to that of third. No opportunity was given him to serve as second officer although he testifies he performed the duties of that office during the greater part of the voyage. In the case of the Ship *Mentor* 4th Mason—Mr. Justice Story said "I must be permitted to say that when a man ships in any particular capacity on board a ship, it is not for slight causes that he is to be degraded or compelled to perform other duties. He is not to be subject to the caprice or distrusts or petulance of the master. He stipulates for fair and reasonable knowledge and diligence, but not for extraordinary talents. If he is guilty of fraud or misrepresentation, he is doubtless subject to all just consequences. But when he acts *bona fide* and is willing to perform his duty, if he should be more tardy in his movements than other men, it constitutes no just ground for degradation. The question then is; was the complainant in this case incompetent for his place, and did he fraudulently impose himself upon the master as a thoroughly qualified officer. The evidence produced to sustain this view, consists of the testimony of the present first officer of the vessel, who was promoted to that position upon the degradation of the complainant, and that of three of the crew. Of the evidence given by the present mate, although he appeared in court as a straightforward truthful man, it is to be borne in mind that he occupies a position created by the degradation of the man against whom he was testifying, and also that he was one of the ship's company, all of whom seem to have taken a dislike to the complainant, or to have fallen into the common practice, on land as well as at sea, of striking at the fallen, and seeking the favour of those in power. As to the men who made haste to pronounce their condemnation of their former officer it is only necessary to say, in addition to the foregoing, that when they were testifying, they were under the influence of liquor which did not tend to soften their views of the incompetency and general worthlessness of the complainant. On the other hand we have the testimony of the complainant, showing a long service at sea, having served as an officer since 1875. We have his Danish certificate of competency, showing him to have passed his examination at the highest rate. His certificate of competency granted by the secretary of the Straits Settlements, at Singapore in 1876. His certificate of excellent service given by masters of several vessels of different nationalities with whom he had sailed as an officer; the



fact that in the winter of 1878, while first mate of the Danish barque *Malvina* he took charge of the vessel as master, in the West Indies, in consequence of the illness of the captain, and brought her safely to Copenhagen, with six cabin passengers, forty soldiers, and four prisoners; and also the testimony of Captain Jamieson, licenced pilot at this port, who swears that the complainant was shipped on a vessel here some six years ago as mate, and that the witness piloted the vessel to sea, and was requested by the master, to watch the proceedings of the mate, and give his opinion as to his competency, he being a stranger. The watch was made. The mate worked the ship, and the opinion of the witness, and of the captain, was, that he was thoroughly competent; and finally, and it seems to me, conclusively, is the opinion of the experts I have referred to, which concludes by saying that in their judgment the complainant is fully competent to hold the position of chief officer of any class of sailing craft. It is proper to say that these gentlemen, one the former master of an American ship, and well known in Yokohama for ability and integrity, and the other the master of a British ship now in port who bears the reputation of a skillful and impartial officer, conducted their examination of the complainant without the slightest influence from myself, and without having any expression of my opinion, and that they have refused to accept any fees for their services. I append a copy of their report to this finding. From all this I am forced to the conclusion that the complainant was improperly discharged, and is entitled to his full wages, and his discharge from the vessel with the extra wages allowed by law. The master undoubtedly believed he was justified in his estimate of the qualifications of his mate, but it seems to me, he acted without due consideration, and having formed his opinion was too much biassed to judge impartially of the officer's merits. It is probable too that the complainant was not quick enough in his movements to satisfy the nervous organization of the master, and in several respects was not agreeable to him, but as I have said before, such facts do not justify the degradation of an officer. It is therefore ordered that the complainant be discharged from the vessel and be paid his full wages as mate, at the rate fixed in the ship's articles, from the date of shipment, until the day he left the ship at this port and the extra wages allowed by law (unless he shall waive such extra wages) and that the master pay into the consulate the one month's extra wages belonging to the government. No costs will be charged.

I have been thus particular in formulating my opinion and decision in this case because, while I know how difficult it is to convince a ship master that he is ever in the wrong, in a controversy with any of the ship's company, I wish to satisfy those who have a right to enquire, of the fact that the enquiry has been thorough and impartial, and that upon the facts and the law, no other conclusions could have been arrived at.

(Signed) THOMAS B. VAN BUREN,  
Consul-General.

General T. B. VAN BUREN,  
U. S. Consul General.

SIR:—Having been requested by you to examine Mr. J. J. C. Lorentzen, who was discharged from the position of chief mate of the American ship *Benj. Sewall* on the passage

from New York to this port, and to give our opinion as to his knowledge, nautical skill, and general competency to hold the position of chief officer of a full rigged ship. We the undersigned, respectfully submit the following report.

We have carefully examined Mr. J. J. C. Lorentzen in the following manner.—We supposed a large ship about to leave the pier in New York, in tow of a tug-boat. Sail to be made, (a stiff topgallant breeze blowing at the time) ship to be tacked, the wind increasing, shortened sail, afterwards wore ship, and in fact examined him strictly on all points relative to working a ship in all kinds of weather. We also questioned him as to binding sails in all positions, in a gale sending down spars &c. Also what he would do in case of losing the rudder, and in fact put the imaginary ship in all conceivable positions, in all kinds of weather. We also examined him as to the rules of the road. All of our questions he answered in an intelligent and seamanlike manner, and without hesitation.

In our opinion as far as can be judged from asking questions and receiving correct answers, the said Mr. J. J. C. Lorentzen is competent to hold the position of chief officer on any class of sailing craft.

We are, Sir,  
your most obedient servants,  
(Signed) R. M. VARNUM.  
ROBERT CHAPMAN.

MR. LOWDER's disclaimer places Mr. House and his followers, Sir E. J. Reed, K.C.B., M.P., and "Asiaticus," in a position of fast increasing embarrassment. The only gentleman whom any of Sir Harry Parkes' accusers have ventured to name as in a position to corroborate any of the trumped-up charges urged against the British minister to Japan, at once, and spontaneously, denies any knowledge of the matter; and does so in language which we hope is not to be mistaken or misconstrued.

Every thinking man is convinced that if the calumniators were forced to prove their calumnies, to substantiate those charges which a man of untarnished honour and reputation, the object of them, has positively asserted to be one and severally untrue, the painful scene we are now compelled to witness would speedily come to an end. Distressing as the position may be to Sir Harry Parkes, after so many years of arduous and dangerous service, it will be some passing consolation to him to know that not only his fellow countrymen, but other nationals resident here, regard him still as one of the ablest, most faithful, and most conscientious ministers who ever filled a post of unusual difficulty in a country and with a government entirely ignorant of the usages of nations.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

SIR H. S. PARKES AND HIS ACCUSERS.

To the editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

DEAR SIR:—I beg to say that Mr. House's mention of my name as a witness to an assault alleged to have been committed by Sir H. Parkes is wholly unwarranted and unauthorized and that I am unable to corroborate Mr. House's statements.

Yours faithfully,  
F. LOWDER.

Yokohama, 26th July, 1881.

#### HONGKONG.

(*Hongkong Daily Press*.)

The news received yesterday (July 17th) from Macao relative to the Wei Sing Lottery monopoly is most unsatisfactory. We hear that the auction on Saturday was stopped at four o'clock, to be resumed on Monday. The highest offer obtained on Saturday was \$640,000 and there were only two parties in competition. Five syndicates had made deposits of \$20,000, but two of them retired from the field in the afternoon, withdrawing their deposits. Whether they had been bought off by the others we are unable to say, and it is equally difficult to prognosticate how the bidding may go to-day, but there is reason to apprehend a *fiasco* unless Governor Graça has the courage to make a firm stand against combination and withdraw the Farm altogether unless he gets a fair price for it, which is now perhaps the only way of bringing the Chinese up to the mark.

(*China Mail*.)

The public competition for the Wei-Sing Farm was to take place at Macao this morning (July 16); and from advices received to-day it would seem that the bidding must have been keen and lively. It is said that up to yesterday afternoon three different sets of Chinese had made deposits of \$20,000 each into the Treasury, thus securing the right to bid. In addition to these syndicates, the two factions connected with the old Farmers were almost certain to make themselves heard; while it is also asserted that some Chinese and foreigners went over in the *White Cloud* yesterday to "take a deal" in this Gambling business, if they saw their way thereto. All sorts of rumours are in circulation; but as the final result will soon be known, it is useless to go into any extravagant foreshadowings.

#### Shipping.

##### ARRIVALS.

- July 8, Brit. str. *Euphrates*, Mitchell, 1,260, from Kobe, 5th inst., Tea and General, to Smith, Baker & Co.
- July 9, Frch. str. *Volga*, Guirand, 1,502, from Hongkong, Mails and General, to M. M. Co.
- July 11, Am. str. *City of Peking*, Berry, 5,079, from San Francisco, Mails and General, to P. M. S. S. Co.
- July 11, Brit. barq. *Mora*, Bell, 619, from London, Jan. 4th, General, to Ed. Whittall.
- July 11, Jap. barq. *Sumanoura-Maru*, Spiegelthal, 925, from Nagasaki, Coals, to M. B. S. S. Co.
- July 11, Brit. str. *Merionethshire*, Saml. Rickard, 1,245, from London via Hongkong, General, to Adamson, Bell & Co.
- July 13, Am. ship *Benjamin Sewall*, Sewall, 1,463, from New York, Feb. 17th, 48,500 cases Kerosene, to Smith, Baker & Co.
- July 13, Ger. barq. *Pei Ho*, Lamoken, 433, from Takao, June 28th, Sugar, to Chiusee.
- July 13, Jap. str. *Wakunoura-Maru*, Christensen, 1,300, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.
- July 14, Jap. str. *Genkai-Maru*, Conner, 1,917, from Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.
- July 14, Brit. str. *Cleveland*, Harvey, 709, from Takao, 7th inst., 20,000 piculs Sugar, to Jardine, Matheon & Co.
- July 15, Brit. brig *Otto*, Koch, 240, from Takao, 1st inst., Sugar, to Hudson & Co.
- July 16, Brit. barq. *Prospector*, Anthony, 235, from Takao, July 1st, 5,300 piculs Sugar, to Soou Ho.
- July 16, French corvette *Champlain*, Capt. Dubrot, 1,910 tons, 10-guns, 450 H.P., from a cruise.
- July 16, Jap. barq. *Kanagawa-Maru*, Eckstrand, 1,184, from Nagasaki, Coals, to M. B. S. S. Co.

July 16, Brit. str. *Malacca*, Weighell, 1,709, from Hongkong via Nagasaki, Mails and General, to P. & O. Co.

July 18, Jap. str. *Takasago-Marv*, Young, 1,230, from Hongkong via Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.

July 18, Froh. barq. *Magellan*, Landard, 480, from Newcastle, N.S.W., June 8th, Coals, to Mollison, Fraser & Co.

July 18, Brit. barq. *Excelsior*, Hutton, 664, from Newcastle, N.S.W., June 1st, Coals, to Mollison, Fraser & Co.

July 18, Jap. str. *Kokonoye-Marv*, Dithlefsen, 1,133, from Hakodate, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.

July 18, Am. barq. *Florence Treat*, S. Veaze, 769, from Newcastle, N.S.W., June 1st, Coals, to Mollison, Fraser & Co.

July 21, Jap. str. *Hiroshima-Marv*, Haswell, 1,870, from Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.

July 21, Jap. str. *Kumamoto-Marv*, Drummond, 1,240, from the North, General, to M. B. S. S. Co.

July 21, H. N. M. corvette *Koningin Emma der Nederlanden*, Captain le Chev. Rensselaer de Bovier, 3,130 tons, 10-guns, 2,670 H.P., from Nagasaki.

July 22, Brit. str. *Glamis Castle*, R. G. Tod, 1,558, from Shanghai, 19th inst., General, to Adamson, Bell & Co.

July 22, Froh. str. *Menzaleh*, Homery, 1,273, from Hongkong, 15th inst., Mails and General, to M. M. Co.

July 23, Brit. str. *Metapedia*, Fowler, 1,452, from London via Hongkong and Shanghai, General, to Smith, Baker & Co.

July 23, Jap. str. *Wakanoura-Marv*, Christensen, 1,300, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.

July 24, Brit. str. *Belgie*, Davison, 2,827, from Hongkong, Mails and General, to O. & O. Co.

July 25, H. M. gun-boat *Mosquito*, Lieut.-Commander Hon. Sandilands, 59 men, 4-guns, 501 tons, from Nagasaki.

July 25, Am. gun-boat *Alert*, Comd. Huntington, 600 tons, 4-guns, 120 H.P., from surveying, Bonin Islands.

July 25, Jap. str. *Tokai-Marv*, Hogg, 1,042, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.

July 27, Brit. str. *Gaelic*, Kidley, 2,704, from San Francisco, Mails and General, to O. & O. Co.

July 27, Jap. str. *Tokio-Marv*, Swain, 2,119, from Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.

## DEPARTURES.

July 7, French corvette *Kersaint*, Capt. Rouquette, 1,200 tons, 120 H.P., for Hakodate.

July 9, Am. str. *City of Tokio*, Cobb, 5,050, for San Francisco, Mails and General, despatched by P. M. Co.

July 9, Jap. str. *Hiogo-Marv*, Thomas, 896, for Niigata, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.

July 9, Jap. str. *Kokonoye-Marv*, Dithlefsen, 1,133, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.

July 9, Brit. str. *Venice*, Beard, 1,273, for New York via Amoy, General, despatched by Jardine, Matheson & Co.

July 9, Jap. str. *Niigata-Marv*, Wynn, 1,603, for Hongkong via Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.

July 10, Brit. str. *Sunda*, Reeves, 1,704, for Hongkong via Hiogo and Nagasaki, Mails and General, despatched by P. & O. Co.

July 11, H. M. S. *Lily*, Comd. S. Grove, 700 tons, 95 H.P., 8-guns, 100 men, for a cruise.

July 12, Jap. str. *Shio-Marv*, Kilgour, 800, for Yokkaichi, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.

July 12, Jap. str. *Shinagawa-Marv*, Walker, 908, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.

July 13, Am. str. *City of Peking*, Berry, 5,079, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by P. M. S. S. Co.

July 13, Brit. str. *Euphrates*, Mitchell, 1,260, for New York via Amoy, Tea, despatched by Smith, Baker & Co.

July 15, Jap. str. *Nagoya-Marv*, Walker, 1,914, for Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.

July 15, French corvette *Champlain*, Capt. Dubrot, 1,940 tons, 10-guns, 450 H.P., for a cruise.

July 16, Am. ship *Mary L. Stone*, Field, 1,458, for Kobe, General, despatched by A. Reimers & Co.

July 16, Am. frigate *Richmond*, Capt. Benham, 2,000 tons, 14-guns, 800 H.P., for Panama via Acapulco.

July 17, Froh. str. *Tanais*, Reynier, 1,735, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by M. M. Co.

July 18, Brit. str. *Merionethshire*, Saml. Rickard, 1,245, for Kobe, General, despatched by Adamson, Bell & Co.

July 18, Jap. str. *Wakanoura-Marv*, Christensen, 1,300, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.

July 18, Jap. barq. *Sumanoura-Marv*, Spiegelthal, 925, for Nagasaki, Ballast, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.

July 19, Ger. barq. *Black Diamond*, Baade, 460, for Puget Sound, Ballast, despatched by P. Bohru.

July 19, Brit. barq. *Zodiac*, Haiko, 376, for Hakodate, Ballast, despatched by E. B. Watson.

July 20, Jap. str. *Genkai-Marv*, Conner, 1,917, for Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.

July 21, Brit. str. *Cleveland*, Harvey, 769, for Nagasaki, Ballast, despatched by Jardine, Matheson & Co.

July 21, Jap. str. *Kokonoye-Marv*, Dithlefsen, 1,133, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.

July 21, Brit. barq. *Philip Nelson*, Furze, 524, for Hiogo, General, despatched by Wilkin & Robison.

July 21, Jap. str. *Meiji-Marv*, Peters, 1,010, for Kamaishi, despatched by Lighthouse Dept.

July 22, Am. ship *R. Robinson*, Smith, 1,652, for Nagasaki, Ballast, despatched by J. D. Carroll & Co.

July 22, Jap. barq. *Kanagawa-Marv*, Eckstrand, 1,184, for Nagasaki, Ballast, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.

July 23, Jap. str. *Tsuruga-Marv*, Steadman, 661, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.

July 23, Jap. str. *Takasago-Marv*, Young, 1,230, for Hongkong via Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.

July 25, Jap. str. *Suminoye-Marv*, Frahm, 853, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.

July 25, Brit. str. *Malacca*, Weighell, 1,709, for Hongkong via Hiogo and Nagasaki, Mails and General, despatched by P. & O. Co.

July 25, Brit. str. *Nansing*, Mitchell, —, for Shanghai and ports, General, despatched by Jardine, Matheson & Co.

July 25, H. B. M. despatch vessel *Vigilant*, 50 men, 2-guns, 1,815 H.P., bearing the flag of Vice-Admiral Willes, C.B., Lieut.-Comd. Lindsay, for Hakodate.

July 25, Jap. str. *Wakanoura-Marv*, Christensen, 1,300, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.

July 26, Brit. str. *Glamis Castle*, R. G. Tod, 1,558, for New York via Japan and China ports, Tea and General, despatched by Adamson, Bell & Co.

## PASSENGERS.

Per Brit. str. *Euphrates*, from Kobe:—40 Japanese in steerage.

Per Froh. str. *Volga*, from Hongkong:—Mr. R. B. Robertson in cabin. From Marseilles: Miss Otaki, Messrs. Oyama, Yoshida Masaharu, Taiso Masaki, Fumaki, Ohayagi, and Msimura in cabin.

Per Am. str. *City of Tokio*, for London: Mr. C. J. Cooper in cabin. For Liverpool: Dr. J. W. Fisher, R.N., Messrs. John Nutter, and R. W. Little in cabin. For New York: Rev. H. C. Du Bose, wife and three children, Miss Firebrace and maid, Miss G. Firebrace, Messrs. H. G. O. Chase, R. T. Firebrace and S. Tashiro in cabin. For Boston: Mr. and Mrs. Dumaresq and three children in cabin. For San Francisco: Mr. A. E. Olarovsky (Russian Consul-General to San Francisco), Mrs. Edward Fischer, Miss St. Aubyn, Mrs. D. Carrow and child, Mrs. F. Nichols and daughter, Capt. J. Kenny, Dr. Cowan, Dr. Aizalrood, Messrs. J. A. R. Waters, Chas. W. White, W. L. Scruggs, W. H. Day in cabin; and 8 European and 1,041 Chinese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Niigata-Marv*, for Hongkong via Kobe:—Madame Carandini, Miss Carandini, Miss Linden, Messrs. Sherwin, A. S. Aldrich, Yeend Duer, J. de Vigan and 1 Japanese in cabin.

Per Brit. str. *Sunda*, for Hongkong via Hiogo and Nagasaki:—Capt. S. Grove, R.N., Messrs. W. J. Budden, A. Brodmeier, Cunningham and J. Hutchison in cabin; 3 Europeans and 1 Chinese in steerage.

Per Am. str. *City of Peking*, from San Francisco:—Comd. L. Kempff, U.S.N., Mr. James Butterworth, U.S.N., Mr. R. B. Leitch, U.S.N., Dr. J. Stewart, Messrs. H. M. Roberts, G. H. Grant, W. R. Dunn, A. Nimmo, F. S. Ziffarer, K. Yaye, Bunaki Manwaki, A. J. Leffingwell and J. Mayers in cabin. For Hongkong: 100 Chinese in steerage.

Per Brit. str. *Merionethshire*, from London via Hongkong:—Mr. Bathbone in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Wakanoura-Marv*, from Kobe:—Mr. Williams and 200 Japanese.

Per Jap. str. *Genkai-Marv*, from Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Andre, Miss N. Lawrence, Miss N. Ralston, Miss K. Jessup, Lieut. Col. de Bodisco Capt. J. A. Mitchell, Messrs. S. Bing, Luis de Agar, Yeend Duer, J. Atkinson, W. H. Smith, H. J. Black, V. E. Braga, and 19 Japanese in cabin; 2 Europeans, 203 Japanese and 4 Chinese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Nagoya-Marv*, for Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Marsh, Miss Crosby, Miss Fletcher, Miss Walker, Miss Mansfield, Messrs. R. B. Leitch, Forbes, H. Rhees, Larouchine, R. Wylie, Bischof, Howard and 29 Japanese in cabin.

Per Brit. str. *Malacca*, from Hongkong via Nagasaki:—1 Chinese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Takasago-Marv*, from Hongkong and Kobe:—Capt. and Mrs. Stainforth, and 2 children, Messrs. Buddicom, L. Napier, W. H. Christy, J. W. Darnn, J. M. Grigor, C. Wood, T. Leuz, T. C. Thomson, and 5 Japanese in cabin; and 81 Japanese in steerage.

Per Froh. str. *Tanais*, for Hongkong:—Madame Benjamin, Madame Sack and two children, Madame Jinean and two children, Messrs. Sack, Jinsan, and 4 Japanese in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Genkai-Marv*, for Shanghai and ports:—Miss Ralston, Messrs. Tong Ming Wa, J. M. Grigor, E. F. Fennollosa, Luis de Agax, T. Dewjee, and 18 Japanese in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Hiroshima-Marv*, from Shanghai and ports:—Doctor and Mrs. Winn, and 2 children, Messrs. Radolphe, Telge, Degenetals, MacGregor, A. S. Forbes, Benary, Manhardt, Englehardt, D. D. Allen, R. A. Wylie, Vidal, Segenge, Revd. Meacham, and 5 Japanese in cabin; 1 European, 180 Japanese and 6 Chinese in steerage.

Per Brit. str. *Glamis Castle*, from Shanghai:—5 Europeans and 34 Chinese.

Per Froh. str. *Menzaleh*, from Hongkong:—Miss Esmusat, Messrs. C. A. Read and E. Ocaaldi in cabin. From Marseilles: Messrs. V. de Bavier, Chauvin, Murata, and Yamawaki in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Wakanoura-Marv*, from Kobe:—150 Japanese in steerage.

Per Brit. str. *Belgie*, from Hongkong:—Messrs. J. Pestonjee, D. Nowrojee, S. B. Bhaba, H. N. Cooper, and 4 native servants. For San Francisco: Lieut.-Col. J. E. Longdon, Messrs. A. O. Bryer, W. T. Brooke, and 1 European and 596 Chinese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Takasago-Marv*, for Hongkong via Kobe:—Captain McMicken, Messrs. Till, T. Leuz, and 6 Japanese in steerage.

Per Brit. str. *Malacca*, for Hongkong via Hiogo and Nagasaki:—Mr. Dengback, Mr. and Mrs. King-sell and infant, Mrs. Chee San, infant and servant in cabin; and 2 Chinese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Tokai-Marv*, from Kobe:—80 Japanese in steerage.

Per Brit. str. *Gaelic*, from San Francisco:—Miss Chica Savage, Mrs. Col. Savage, Miss Beale Gratian, Miss Lola Martinez, Senator Zook, U. S. Consul to Tientsin, Mr. F. S. Street, Mrs. S. Milton, Miss Birdsell, Mrs. M. J. Gibbs and 3 children, Mrs. Zook and 3 children, and Mrs. Eva Woodworth in cabin. For Shanghai: Mr. F. O. Oario in cabin. For Hongkong: 170 Chinese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Tokio-Marv*, from Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. George Holmes, Mrs. J. Grigor, Dr. H. M. Perkins, Lieut. A. H. Anson, R.N., Dr. Harris, Capt. Chibourg, Miss Marion, Messrs. W. R. Kong, U.S.N., Guild, Aldrich, Macnabb, Figueroa, Gergen, J. E. Foster, and 13 Japanese in cabin; and 4 Europeans, 5 Chinese and 175 Japanese in steerage.

## REPORTS.

The American steamer *City of Peking* reports:—Left San Francisco June 23rd, 1891, at 2 p.m. First part moderate westerly winds. At latter end light easterly with fine weather throughout. July 2nd Lat. 47° N. Long. 173° W. passed a steamer supposed to be the *Oceanic*, same day passed a wreck of Japanese fishing boat.

The British steamer *Belgie* reports:—Sailed from Hongkong July 18th, 1891, at 5.39 p.m. Encountered moderate winds and fair weather to port. Arrived at Yokohama July 24th at 3.17 p.m. Time 5 days, 19 hours and 56 min.

The British steamer *Gaelic* reports:—Left San Francisco at 8 p.m. on the 7th July. Had fresh N.W. winds for two days, and calms the remainder of the passage. Arrived at Yokohama on the 26th July.

## COMMERCIAL CIRCULAR.

YOKOHAMA, JULY 27TH, 1881.

Showing Duties payable, Prices realized, Quotations, and Estimated Sales of Goods in Yokohama, for the period of 19 days from 7th July 1881, to the 25th July 1881, inclusive.

## IMPORTS.

Nineteen days have elapsed since our last market report, during which a fair business has been transacted in cotton manufactures and yarns. Sales of the last named reach 5,535 bales, including some contracts for delivery within twenty to fifty days. Quotations show some improvement all round, but, as usual, they are more noticeable for those higher qualities which are almost out of stock. Shirtings, Turkey reds, Velvet, and Victoria Lawns, have also been in some demand at sustained prices generally. Currency exchange is weaker.

**YARNS.**—Sales reported reach 5,535 Bales against 2,482 Bales for the preceding period; making a total for the year to date of 36,096 Bales—viz.: 20,908 Bales 16/24; 7,457 Bales 28/32; 1,122 Bales 38/42; 1,505 Bales doubled, and 5,104 Bales Indian qualities.

**SUGAR.**—Almost unchanged; tone weaker.

133 lbs. = 1 Picul.

100 Dollars Mexican = \$11 Silver Boas.

	DUTY CALCULATED IN MEXICAN DOLLARS.	DUTY PAID.		ESTIMATED SALES.
		PRICES AT WHICH SALES HAVE BEEN MADE.	NOMINAL QUOTATIONS.	(From 7th July to 25th July.)
COTTON PIECE GOODS.				
Drills, American, 40 yds. 30 in. 14 lbs. ...	0.0241 ₱ 10 yds.	\$ ————— ₱ pc.	\$2.55 @ 3.50	— pieces.
Prints, assorted, 24 " 30 " ...	0.0241 " "	1.30 @ 2.05 " "	1.00 @ 2.75	1,500 "
Satins (cotton) ...	0.0643 " "	— " "	0.11½ @ 0.12	— "
Shirtings, Grey, 38½ yds. 39 in. 7 lbs. ...	0.0281 " "	— " "	1.40 @ 1.90	— "
" " 38½ " 39 " 8½ " ...	0.0281 " "	1.90 @ 2.30 " "	1.75 @ 2.35	12,500 "
" " 38½ " 45 " 9 " ...	0.0321 " "	2.14 @ 2.56 " "	2.12 @ 2.70	16,300 "
" " 38½ " 45 " 10 " ...	0.0321 " "	3.10 @ — " "	— " "	350 "
T. Cloth, 32 in. 6 lbs. ...	0.0241 " "	— " "	1.20 @ 1.50	— "
" " 7 " 6 lbs. ...		— " "	1.55 @ 1.75	— "
Turkey Reds, 24 yds. 30 in. 1½ lb. ...	0.2041 " "	1.55 " "	— " "	1,500 assorted.
" " 24 " 30 " 2 " @ 2½ lb. to 2½ lb. ...		1.51 @ 1.70 " "	— " "	2,400 pieces.
" " 24 " 30 " 2½ " @ 3 lbs. ...		1.75 " "	1.65 @ 2.00	500 "
" " 24 " 30 " — " @ 3 lbs. ...		— " "	1.60 @ 2.20	— "
Velvets (black) 35 " 22 " ...	0.0643 " "	7.20 @ 8.50 " "	7.00 @ 8.70	1,610 "
Victoria Lawns, 12 " 42 " ...	0.0321 " "	0.62 @ 0.70 " "	0.60 @ 0.80	11,600 "
Cotton Italians, 35 " 32 " ...	0.0643 " "	— " "	0.10 @ 0.15	— "
COTTON YARN.				
Nos. 16 @ 24 reversed ...	1.6077 ₱ picul.	30.50 @ 30.75 ₱ pc.	—	75 bales
" 16 @ 24 ...		28.50 @ 32.90 " "	—	3,065 "
" 28 @ 32 ...		31.00 @ 34.65 " "	—	1,275 "
" 38 @ 42 ...		28.50 @ 40.50 " "	—	110 "
" 32 doubled ...		36.25 @ 37.50 " "	—	125 "
" 42 " ...		— " "	—	— "
" 60 " ...		— " "	—	— "
" 100 " ...		— " "	—	— "
Indian No. 10 ...		— " "	—	— "
" " 12 ...		— " "	—	— "
" " 14 ...	27.50	— " "	—	70 "
" " 16 ...		29.00 " "	—	143 "
" " 20 ...		29.25 @ 29.75 " "	—	672 "
WOOLLENS AND MIXTURES.				
Alpaca, 40 yds. 32 in. ...	0.0965 ₱ 10 yds.	— " "	\$5.50 @ \$7.00	—
Blankets, assorted ...	1.6077 ₱ picul.	— " "	—	—
" " 6 lbs. (½ scarlet ½ green) ...		0.39 " "	—	300 pairs.
" " 5 lbs. ...		— " "	—	—
Cloth, all wool, 54 @ 64 " ...	0.0965 ₱ 10 yds.	— " "	0.80 @ 1.50	—
" " Pilots, 54 @ 64 " ...	0.3215 under 55 in. to 0.4019 exceeding 55 in. 1½ width ₱ 10 yds.	— " "	0.30 @ 0.60	—
" " Presidents, 54 @ 64 " ...		— " "	0.60 @ 0.70	—
" " Union, 54 @ 56 " ...		— " "	0.35 @ 0.60	—
Italian Cloth, 32 in. ...		— " "	0.25 @ 0.40	—
Mousselines de Laine (plain & stripes), 24 yds. 31 in. ...	0.0965 ₱ 10 yds.	0.15½ @ 0.18 " "	0.16½ @ 0.19½	6,150
" " " (figured) ...	0.0965 " "	— " "	0.25 @ 0.40	—
SUGAR.				
White, Jimpah, No. 1 ...	0.3215 ₱ picul.	\$7.50 @ 7.90	—	Stock 13,000 piculs.
" " Khimpah, " 2 ...		6.80 @ 7.80	—	
" " Kokfah, " 3 ...		6.20 @ 6.70	—	
" " Kungfun, " 4 ...		5.50 @ 6.10	—	
" " Gnihpah, " 5 ...		4.80 @ 5.30	—	
Brown, Formosa, bags ...	0.1286 " "	4.00 @ 4.17½	—	10,000 piculs.
" " Amoy ...		3.70 @ 3.85	—	35,000 "
METALS &c.				
Iron, Flat and Round ...	0.0965 ₱ picul.	— " "	\$2.50 @ \$2.80	Stock 300,000 cases.
" Assorted Nail-rods, (assorted) ...	0.0965 " "	— " "	2.30 @ 2.50	No stock
" Pig ...	0.0482 " "	— " "	1.40 @ 1.60	
Lead, Pig ...	0.3572 " "	— " "	5.80 @ 6.00	
Quicksilver ...	1.9292 " "	— " "	—	
Steel, Swedish ...	0.1980 " "	— " "	3.80 @ 4.55	
Tin Plates ...	0.2251 ₱ 120 lbs.	— " "	4.80 @ 5.00	
Kerosene Oil ...	5 % ad valorem.	— " "	1.90 @ 1.95	
Raw Cotton ...	0.4019 ₱ picul.	— " "	10.00 @ 15.00	



## STAPLE EXPORTS.

TEA.—A somewhat quieter tone has been apparent during the interval since the departure of last American Mail, and our leading buyers have for the moment retired from the market leaving the field open for less ambitious competitors. Prices have consequently for all grades below fine become decidedly weaker, and a decline of \$1 to \$2 is apparent on all grades from Good Medium downwards. The Second Crop Teas have come in pretty freely and the quality is rather superior this season to that of last. A fair amount of good sweet Teas costing from \$18 to \$24 have been settled; and though these Teas are not equal in quality and fragrance to the first crop Teas yet the difference in cost will no doubt turn the scale in their favor with the American consumer.

Apparently the Japanese merchants, guided by the experience of last year, are withholding a considerable amount of first crop fine to choice teas from this market, and only sparingly offering these grades by which means they expect to maintain the exorbitant prices at present current for all fine teas. The supply of these in the country is ample, and should a check to business happen, these classes will be brought forward freely, and realised at best rates obtainable.

Our total export from Japan to date, exclusive of cargo of the *Glamis Castle* which sailed yesterday, amounts to 13,358,000 lbs. in round figures against a total of 13,487,000 lbs. corresponding date last season.

Market to-day closes weak and from the tenor of advices received per *Gaelic* this morning from the United States a marked decline seems inevitable at no distant date.

**SILK.**—There was a fair demand for silk and especially for Hanks for some days after the issue of our last report and for No. 3 Sinchew up to \$600 has been offered. Dealers refused at the time to do business unless at a further advance. A fair quantity of Maibashi Hanks changed hands at \$570 and even \$575 and Hatchoji at \$530. About 40 bales of fairly good Omamas were taken at \$590. Latterly, in consequence of adverse news from Europe, the market has been much quieter and at the close holders in some instances are inclined to do business at lower rates. Some Maibashi Hanks have been settled yesterday at \$565, whilst Hatchoji could, no doubt, be got at \$515 to 520. There seems, however, to be little inclination to operate yet. Of Filatures and Re-reeled a few parcels have been taken at quotations.

**'The old stock' of Hamatskis has been sold.**

Among the settlements of Hanks are included several considerable parcels of Tomioka and Fujioka which were bought in the interior for foreign account.

Settlements are	Hanks	... ..	390 Bales.
"	Filatures and Re-reeled Mailbashi	... ..	75 "
"	Sundai and Hamatski	... ..	80 "
"	Kakedas	... ..	15 "
	Total	... ..	560 Bales.

} Stock 750 bales.

TOTAL EXPORT FROM 1ST JULY TO DATE.										1880-81.	1881-82
London	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	176 Bales.	430 Bales.
France and Italy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	284 „	535 „
United States	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	127 „	76 „
										<u>587 Bales.</u>	<u>1,041 Bales.</u>

DESCRIPTION.										PRICES PER PICUL.		REMARKS.
<b>SILK:—</b>												
Mayebashi; 1½ @ 2 Hanks ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	\$ — to —	per picul.	
" 2 " (nominal) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	590 to —	"	
" 2½ " ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	560 to 570	"	
" 3 and lower (nominal) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	500 to 540	"	
Kakedas; Good ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	— to —	"	
Filatures; Best ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	700 to —	"	
" Good ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	660 to 680	"	
Hamatski ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	470 to 530	"	
Sendai and Oshiu ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	— to —	"	
<b>TEA:—</b>												
Common ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	\$13.00 and under.		
Good Common ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	\$14.00 to \$16.00		
Medium ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	\$18.00 to \$21.00		
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# THE JAPAN GAZETTE,

A FORTNIGHTLY SUMMARY OF THE

POLITICAL, COMMERCIAL, LITERARY, AND SOCIAL EVENTS OF JAPAN.

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## Summary.

OUR last issue was dated July 27th. for transmission per O. & O. S. S. *Belgie* via San Francisco. The following mails have since been received:—

P. & O. S. *Sunda*, London, June 18 arr. Aug. 3.  
M. M. S. *Tanais*, Marseilles, " 26 " " 4  
P. M. S. *City of Peking*, H'gkong, July 30 " " 6

And the following have been despatched:—

M. M. S. *Volga*, Marseilles..... July 31  
P. & O. S. *Sunda*, London..... Aug. 9

THE last mail steamer to America carried away from among us Mr. R. T. Rennie, Judge of H.B.M. Court for Japan. He is the first judge who has occupied the bench since the transformation, under the order in council for 1878, of the British Court at this port from a subdivision of the Supreme Court for China and Japan to an independent court, styled H. B. M. Court for Japan. Mr. Rennie is much esteemed and respected here, both in his judicial capacity and as a private individual.

THE Japanese government have passed a resolution, refusing to the people, the right of trial by jury. It seems however, that they had no alternative. "Facts are stubborn things" and the fact that, out of a teeming population of some thirty-five million souls, there are only twelve men to be found who are competent to serve on juries, is a remarkably stubborn fact. These twelve, being the sole members of the supreme government, cannot be empanelled and the people of Japan are by so much the losers. It is time "the school-master was abroad" in this "country of the rising sun" as some people are pleased to designate Japan.

THE China papers continue to discuss the probability of a war between China and Japan. The *Celestial Empire*, in an article headed "War Notes," deals with the question in a clear and practical manner.

MESSRS. ALFRED SHAW & Co. of Brisbane, have issued a circular in which they publish the result of the examination of tea sent to the Melbourne Exhibition. Indian teas have received the lion's share of the award and are said to be fast displacing the cheaper and inferior products of China and Japan in the Australian markets.

THE action against H. B. M. S. *Lapwing*, brought by the China Merchants Steamship Company, has resulted in a verdict for the defendant: the same result attending the cross action. Each party to bear their own costs.

WITH the publication of Sir Harry Parkes's second letter to the *Times*, the correspondence on "English agents in Japan" ceases

so far as the columns of the "leading journal" are concerned, this resolution being appended as a foot-note to the letters in question. The discussion has caused much difference of opinion here, particularly as regards the first letter written by Sir Harry Parkes. Many leading men in this settlement think, with only too much reason on their side, that in condescending to explain or excuse acts which have been performed for and in the name of the government he serves, he has sustained a loss of dignity not easily regained. It would have been much better and far more dignified, for Sir Harry Parkes to have treated his accusers with silent contempt.

WE learn by telegram that His Imperial Majesty the Mikado started for Utsunomiya at 7 a.m. on the 5th instant.

IT appears from the discussion which followed the reading of Mr. Gubbins's paper on Loo-choo before the Society of Arts, the chairman Sir Harry Parkes alluding to the import and export trade of the islands which amounts in round numbers to something like £77,000, said it was very small for such population. The population is 166,000 or thereabouts, and the proportion per head therefore is 9s. 3d. So much for Loo-choo: how fares Japan? With a population of 35,000,000, the gross value of trade in this country for the year ending 30th June 1880 was \$64,129,079, or 6s. 10d. for each person. These figures speak for themselves and certainly do not hold out any very bright picture. It is a circumstance however, that will attract much attention should the promised paper on the commerce of Japan be furnished to the Society.

VISITS of Royalty, like those of angels, are few and far-between in this part of the world. We are to have one very shortly however. The sons of the Prince of Wales are expected to arrive in Japan about the 20th Sept. next, and preparations are being made in the Enri-kwan for the reception of their Royal Highnesses.

THREE steamers, the *Fuso-kan Kongo-kan* and *Jingei-kan* have proceeded to Awamori for the purpose of receiving His Imperial Majesty the Mikado who is to sail for Hokkaido.

THE barometer during the past fortnight, has been rather unsettled here. For three weeks prior to the 28th ult. it had been very steady; on that date it began to fall, gradually declining to 29.74 at 7 a.m. on 30th at which point it remained steady for forty-eight hours. At 7 a.m. on the 2nd inst. the reading was 29.67; at noon on the same day it had declined to 29.57 and was then falling rather rapidly. Since then it has been slowly rising. The weather, at the present moment, is extremely hot and sultry.

## MARRIAGE.

On the 2nd August, at the Union Church, Yokohama, Fr. EISCHOF, to ANNA SCHMUEL.

## Leading Articles.

### SIR HARRY PARKES'S ACCUSERS.

“IT is we who are said to have delayed the revision of the treaties; to have objected to the laws of Japan having reasonable application to foreigners; to have attempted to force on the country an illegitimate trade in opium; to have objected to the closing of the foreign post offices, and to have secretly fomented the difficulties with China on the Loo-choo question.” This extract from Sir E. J. REED's work on Japan embodies the more important charges preferred against Sir HARRY PARKES by the writer in the *Atlantic Monthly*, charges reiterated by Sir E. J. REED in his letter to *The Times* of May 23rd, in which he says that every one of these statements, with the exception of the last, is perfectly true. Any attempt to trace the authority for these charges resolves itself into this, namely, that Sir E. J. REED when in Tokio was coached by Mr. HOUSE; in his book he quotes from Mr. GRIFFIS who copied from Mr. HOUSE; the charges are but repetitions of those formulated by Mr. HOUSE at frequent intervals in the *Tokio Times*, as will be amply proved by the quotations from that journal to which we ask reference; the conclusion being that the sole author and inventor of the malignant libels upon our minister is a hired American hack-writer, the editor of a Japanese organ styled the *Tokio Times* published in Tokio from January 1877 to June 1880. Those who are disposed to attach any weight to the charges to which the *Pall Mall Gazette* has called attention, should take the opportunity we now provide of observing the style and matter of the attacks upon Sir HARRY PARKES, made by this man HOUSE when in the Japanese capital and in the service of the saborners.

Taking first the question of quarantine upon which presumably Sir E. J. REED relies as a patent instance of the British minister's objection to the laws of Japan having reasonable application to foreigners, HOUSE says:—

That it was Asiatic cholera, and of a very deadly degree, must now be admitted even by those who were most incredulous. And it should never be forgotten that, having now been present for three successive seasons in Japan, it was first imported from Amoy at a time when the desire of the Japanese government to enforce quarantine upon ships coming from that port, known to be infected, was overborne by the British minister. It is much more than probable that, if detention had been practised, as it undoubtedly would have been but for his opposition, no cholera would have been introduced. What other inference can be arrived at, than that the terrible calamity which has fallen upon the inhabitants of this country must be ascribed in more than merely limited measure to his baneful and mischievous agency?—*January 24, 1880.*

It is known that the earliest infection was imported from a Chinese port, against which it was the desire of the Japanese government to enforce rigorous quarantine regulations. They allowed themselves to be overruled by the British minister, who insisted that, because no detention was compelled in Hongkong as regarded vessels coming from

Amoy, therefore no such system was necessary in this vicinity.—*April 10, 1880.*

The government, already prepared with an effective scheme of quarantine regulations, was naturally desirous to enforce it, and notified the fact to the foreign representatives. The British minister replied that pratique was not enforced in Hongkong against vessels arriving from the town said to be infected, and that consequently it was not expedient to provide for it in the treaty ports of this state.—*May 1, 1880.*

Referring to the report on choleraic diseases, issued by the director of the central sanitary bureau in 1880, we find an account of the difficulty somewhat at variance with that given above, of which the following is an abstract:—July 13, 1877, the Japanese consul at Amoy telegraphed that malignant cholera had appeared at that port. Measures were at once adopted by this government to prevent the importation of the disease. On July 24th the “Regulations for inspection at the open ports in Japan, which had been agreed upon, in 1873, by the respective ministers of the treaty powers and our minister of foreign affairs,” were referred to, and proposed to be enforced. When these regulations were ready to be adopted the minister of home affairs communicated to the minister of foreign affairs on July 28th requesting him to consult with the foreign representatives. This was done, and on the 31st July the following reply was received by the home office from the minister for foreign affairs:—

It is not necessary to establish, at present, quarantine hospitals at Yokohama and other open ports of Japan, for a telegram from H. E. the governor of Hongkong, sent in reply to the inquiry of H. E. the British minister in Tokio, says, that there seems to be no fear of a further spread of the disease at Amoy, according to the latest despatch received here from that port. Accordingly the establishment of medical inspection or quarantine is not needed in Japan under the present circumstances.

This official account of an action in which the British minister appears to have merely telegraphed to Hongkong for information upon which the Japanese minister for foreign affairs could act, was not published until nearly three years after the occurrence in question; but it was in Mr. HOUSE's hands, and it is from his review of it we extract the passage giving the distorted view of Sir HARRY PARKES's action, dated April 10, 1880.

The extracts following need no connecting lines; they bear their own comment.

That inveterate meddler and mischief maker the British minister . . . every step he has taken in obstructing the natural and simple adjustment of the affair, has been in defiance of decency and propriety, if not of law . . . If the Japanese government had chosen to do so, it could have had him sent packing long ago from the scene of his misdeeds, merely by representing what he had done in the post office matter alone, and passing over his wilder and more outrageous freaks;—such as the memorable glass-breaking enormity, personal assaults like that in Kobe upon unoffending Japanese, threatening to occupy Yokohama band with an armed force, provoking a wretched quarrel in England about Mr. OKUBO's servant, violating diplomatic etiquette and usage by sending insolent letters to the prime minister, ordering and effecting dismissal of a prominent official because he called a queen a queen, depriving the treasury of its lawful revenue

by a notification which he declared was sanctioned by the government, but which in truth was issued on the strength of his own independent audacity, habitually enlivening his interviews with members of the cabinet by shaking his fist in their faces, and other mad pranks too numerous to be set down in the space of a single paragraph.—*June 28, 1879.*

If there is any body of people on the face of the earth towards whom it might naturally be supposed that the British envoy in Japan must entertain feelings of intense dislike, it is the official order of China. They make no secret of their uncompromising detestation of him, and neither his faculty nor his inclination to reciprocate unstintingly has ever been questioned. But from the moment of the establishment of a Chinese legation in Tokio, the cordial hatred of a score of years seemed suddenly abandoned. . . . Possibly each had his purpose to achieve, and the connection was one of convenience on both sides. This much, however, has been plain to all the world:—that the British wooer not only claimed the right of confidential guidance, in all that related to the Chinese envoy's relations with the Japanese authorities, but also strove, with zealous intensity, to set aside every influence that might have interfered with the prosecution of his suit to its ultimate conclusion. In a word, he alone must win the ear, charm the senses and stir the soul of the new object of his desires. It was not long before the intercourse of the Chinese plenipotentiary and the Japanese foreign office began to assume a tone of unfriendliness which, we need not conceal, was carried to such an extremity by the former as to lead him into the extraordinary error of threatening an angry departure. To what extent the British envoy was responsible for the details of his colleague's action we shall not pretend to judge.—*August 16, 1879.*

This last and similar passages are the bases of the accusation which Sir E. J. REED, with lofty magnanimity, refuses to press because it involves the honour of our minister.

Prior to the visit of Mr., now Sir JOHN POPE, HENNESSY to Japan, some interested persons announced that he was on his way to this country to examine into the actions of Sir HARRY PARKES, report thereon to the English government, and secure the recall of the minister. Rumours of the same kind also heralded Sir E. J. REED's approach to these shores. With Sir J. P. HENNESSY's visit to Japan we have nothing more to do and merely mention it now as a preface to the following:—

When a British official of superior rank visits this empire, and is supposed to have noted and signified his disapproval of the vicious course pursued, an outcry is raised all over the east. . . . What is it then that the governor of Hongkong is called upon to approve and uphold? Is it that part of the British envoy's conduct which other western representatives have not found it desirable to emulate? He could hardly have been here long without hearing that the chief agent of his country had more than once asserted his dignity by personally and physically assaulting Japanese gentlemen whose proceedings were not in accord with his immediate humour. Are we to understand that he shall lend his countenance to performances of that description? He could not have remained unaware of the breach of diplomatic etiquette involved in the memorable threatening letter to the prime minister, giving warning of an armed invasion of a



Yokohama thoroughfare. Is it that kind of proceeding that a colonial ruler must support and admire? Or is it the glass-breaking exploit; or the infuriate outbreak against an unoffending official at Nagasaki, or the repeated invasions of private and public custom house rights? . . . It is truly pitiable to see Englishmen so bound down by prejudice and conventionality as to conceive that their national honour requires them to overlook the enormities which have made the name of their minister a vile affront to Japanese ears. . . . The individual whom they at least tacitly acknowledge as the exponent of their principles and convictions, who stands as the typical representative of their race, has made himself infamous in Japanese estimation by a protracted career of insolent interference; a coarse and cruel contempt for the sentiments and traditions of this people; the substitution for diplomatic usages of manners rightly pertaining to the cock-pit, diversified by not infrequent lapses into pugilism; and the direct encouragement, if not the actual imposition, of a host of superfluous functionaries who drained the finances until further tolerance would have been a madness akin to suicide.—October 4, 1879.

The stalwart arm which strewed the shores of ocean with objects of his wrath; the fist which battered furniture in paroxysms of diplomatic debate; the dexterous fingers which sent glass ware whirling to destruction, in emphasis of a political theory; the mind which never rested in the invention of annoyance and vexation for those whose antagonist he made himself; the heart which seemed to throb with intensest ecstasy over humiliations and torments inflicted equally without cause and without mercy.—November 8, 1879.

Again the government of Japan holds the future fate of an obnoxious minister in its own grasp. The briefest of diplomatic notes, or a solitary line by telegraph, would relegate him to the obscure seclusion from which he should never have been dragged forth by indulgent patrons after his bloody carnival at Canton.—December 13, 1879.

The envoy of Great Britain, who is hated with an intensity accorded to no other individual, and to invoke anathemas upon whom is a lesson taught in every Japanese household where his name is known, might have been hurled from his height of arrogance a dozen times, like Lucifer, never to rise again, by the utterance of a single timely word. Even now, the nefarious career of this brigand and freebooter of diplomacy might be cut short by the simple declaration, through the Japanese legation in London, that his presence is distasteful here; and yet the humiliating announcement is suffered to be spread, without remonstrance or contradiction, that his return to the scene of his brutal excess is fixed and determined.—February 7, 1880.

These quotations are carried far enough. For three and a half years this persecution continued, increasing in dastardly brutality as the contemptuous indifference of the public became more apparent. But can we realise or even imagine the position of an envoy compelled to submit, without word or action, to the shameful infliction? Certainly, the knowledge that these foul and false charges were correctly estimated by foreigners and sensible Japanese must have aided the minister to endure

them; must have lessened the humiliation, but not the pain. Hounded from week to week by a mercenary whose venal pen scattered broadcast libels of the most abominable character, Sir HARRY PARKES finds in England a repetition of some of them, drawn attention to by "Asiaticus," an anonymous tool of the libeller, and by Sir EDWARD REED, whose information on these points, gathered in Japan, came from HOUSE and HOUSE only. Sir HARRY PARKES, in his letter to *The Times*, in reference to the article by HOUSE in the *Atlantic Monthly*, says,—“For that article I wish nothing worse than that it may be perused;” so those who have had an opportunity of watching and correctly understanding the difficulties which have beset the British minister in Japan since the present government assumed sole power, wish that nothing worse may befall the calumniator HOUSE than that his brutal assaults upon the QUEEN'S representative in this country may be read by those who are inclined to give credence to the charges he now endeavours to prefer in the columns of the *Pall Mall Gazette*.

These excerpts from the *Tokio Times* would be incomplete without the reproduction of a specimen of the coarse invective with which the editor delighted to degrade his pages. The perfunctory courtesy of phrase which marks the letter of HOUSE to the *Pall Mall Gazette* is in strong contrast to the following effusion, which is one of many taken at random from the *Tokio Times* issued during the years 1878 to 1880. The style is unique, and affords the best clue obtainable by those who have no personal knowledge of HOUSE, to the character of the man. The attack, however, in this instance, is not upon the British minister but upon a contemporary journalist.

It is not often that a person in the position of Yokohama ——— has the opportunity of even partially redeeming his shattered character for journalistic truthfulness. Now the man's forehead should already be blistered by the brands of falsehood that we have stamped upon it for this particular lie. . . . Come, Master ———, produce your evidence. Produce it quickly, or consent to stand naked before the community as one of the most impudent and obscene liars that ever entangled himself in a fraudulent network of his own felicitous invention.

The writer of these passages, taken with little selection from a host of attacks of the same character, was the friend of governor HENNESSY, the being whom general GRANT delighted to honour, the prototype of GRIFFIS the other slanderer, and the intimate adviser, counsellor, and associate of Sir EDWARD REED. And it is upon the unsupported charges of this mendacious ruffian, reiterated by a person who was intimately connected with this country by means of government contracts, that our minister, after the conscientious performance of sixteen years' labour, is to be called upon to defend himself!—July 30.

#### TRIAL BY JURY.

THE codification of the criminal and civil laws of Japan is said to be progressing, a notification having been issued by the prime minister that the reformed criminal code will come into force on January 1st, 1882. From these codes sections providing for the submission of the issues in grave causes to a jury have been omitted; and in the words of a contemporary, the reason

assigned is, that the people are not sufficiently educated to be entrusted with such a privilege. We have at present to deal only with the criminal law as it is proposed to be administered in Japan; and have nothing more to rely upon than the statements in the *Japan Mail*, to one of which we intend to confine our attention.

Visitors, paid writers, and others who think they have some claim to be heard, are in the habit of asserting that nothing in the treaties is so painful and humiliating to the Japanese government as the clause which exempts foreigners from native jurisdiction. Strange to say no definitive demand for the abrogation of this condition appears to have been made, although several indirect attempts to acquire municipal control over foreigners have, from time to time, been observed and as regularly checked; nevertheless the Japanese government are very often held up as entitled to receive greater consideration in this respect than has hitherto been accorded to them. Whether the Japanese ministers themselves are the authors of this real or supposed demand we do not know; but if they are—if the cry of others is not the mere “hare-brained chatter of irresponsible frivolity,”—how does it come to pass that the usually acute ministers should permit the world to have before it a resolution of the senate, passed in this year of progress 1881, that the Japanese people are not sufficiently educated to act as jurymen? This point should not be surrounded with too many distinctions. Japan has made many praiseworthy efforts to improve her judicial procedure; but the results are not so apparent, nor has sufficient time elapsed to enable impartial critics to form more than an outline opinion which, so far as it goes, is probably favourable to the future of Japanese law. This impression the government should have done all in their power to strengthen; and have taken every precaution to guard it from adverse criticism. This wise rule has not been observed; on the contrary, those powers who may be inclined to consider how far territorial jurisdiction over foreigners may be conceded to Japan, are met by the undisguised declaration of a government composed of twelve or thirteen persons, responsible to none, exercising supreme authority, that the middle classes are utterly unworthy to enjoy any political rights whatsoever, and farther, that their standard of education is too low to permit them to sit as jurymen.

Exception has been taken to our view of this latest legislative act; and a vain effort has been made to explain what is intended to be conveyed in the word education. We are told that:—“The education in question is “not a knowledge of primers, geographical, “historical, or economical, but a political “education, and of this—although readily “premising that no foreigner is in a position “to pass confident judgment—nothing in the “past or present condition of Japan suggests even a moderate supply.” The legitimate inference is that, as all access to political education is closely barred against the people, trial by the country is to be for ever impossible. If we go back in imagination one thousand years, how does the civilization and education of the English people of the ninth century compare with similar qualifications of the respectable middle class Japanese of to-day? And yet authorities agree in an acknowledgment that King ALFRED introduced trial by jury into England in 886 A.D. BLACKSTONE alludes to trial by jury as having been “universally established among all the “northern nations, and so interwoven in

"their very constitution, that the earliest accounts of the one give us some traces of the other." Reference to other authorities serves to show that the origin of trial by jury is lost in the mists of antiquity. It was regarded in the ages before politics or education were as the only true and fair form of trial. This being the case, what has political education to do with the qualifications of men to decide upon the evidence for and against one of their own number accused of an offence committed against themselves?

In no part of our previous note on this subject was any enthusiastic admiration expressed for the institution of trial by jury. The view taken was essentially common sense and practical; and we deprecate any attempt to obscure the point by assertions that he who advocates trial by jury in Japan wishes the nation to pass at once to extreme conditions of society higher than its own; or assumes that a people shut out from all political freedom, who have known only the yoke, should be ready at a moment's notice to assume the reins. The question is, is the middle class of Japan competent to furnish twelve men to decide upon the weight of evidence placed before them in a criminal cause? The government, that is, twelve other men, sitting in judgment, say no; and so it must go forth to the world that the Japanese people, who are said to lay claim to jurisdiction over all foreigners, and to resent the treaty stipulation which prevents this as humiliating and insulting, are wholly incompetent to exercise one of the humblest though most important functions of freemen. That is all. If the code goes forth with this condition it can no longer lay claim to be "modelled upon that of France," for in that country the jury possess powers far greater than their English compeers.

No charge of impropriety has been urged against the judges; but we observe with regret a growing tendency to distort the meaning of phrases which are in the original devoid of any approach to ambiguity. Experience of the form and working of government, of the class of people who are at once officials and traders, of the number of acts of the government towards favoured individuals which should and would be contested in courts of law if those courts were differently constituted, warranted the sentence that the decisions of judges more or less dependent upon one of the parties to a cause, and absolutely dependent upon the government who may frequently be the real defendants, must all be open to suspicion—suspicion sufficient to destroy all faith in Japanese courts or in the administration of justice. The same words are applicable to any nation situated as Japan is; nor would any hesitation be shown in applying them to England under similar conditions. There, where the judges are men of the best education, enjoying an office of high honour and distinction, independent of the government, and of the demise of the crown, removable only by impeachment for corruption or default in the exercise of their duties, the constitution very wisely confides to them only the administration of the law; that is, its application to the facts, which latter are to be decided upon by twelve men the equals of the person accused. Few English judges will willingly decide questions of fact; while so jealous are they of their reputation that no judge will sit as a member of a court in a cause where a company in which he is a shareholder is a party.

All this has long ago been settled by authority. BLACKSTONE, in estimating the advan-

tages of trial by jury, says:—"If the administration of justice is entirely entrusted to the magistracy, a select body of men, and those generally selected by the prince, or, such as enjoy the highest offices in the state, their decisions, in spite of their own natural integrity, will frequently have an involuntary bias towards those of their own rank and dignity,—for it is not to be expected from human nature, that the few should be always attentive to the interests and good of the many. . . . But in settling and adjusting a question of fact, when entrusted to any single magistrate, partiality and injustice have an ample field to range in; either by boldly asserting that to be proved which is not so, or by more artfully suppressing some circumstances, stretching and warping others, and distinguishing away the remainder. Here, therefore, a competent number of sensible and upright jurymen, chosen by lot from among those of the middle rank, will be found the best investigators of truth, and the surest guardians of public justice."

In criminal cases of any importance in any country the crown must be concerned as prosecutor; and by no stretch of imagination can we conceive judges appointed by the prosecutor, holding office at his pleasure, and deciding upon questions of fact as of law, entitled to receive, and receiving, the confidence of the people. All such courts will be held in suspicion. An English commentator very eloquently remarks:—"It may be truly affirmed that the most transcendent privilege which any subject can enjoy or wish for is, that he cannot be affected either in his property, his liberty, or his person, but by the unanimous consent of twelve of his neighbours and equals; and there can be no doubt that this institution has secured the just liberties of this nation for a long succession of ages. And therefore a celebrated French writer (Montesquieu) who concludes that because Rome, Sparta and Carthage, have lost their liberties, therefore those of England in time must perish, should have recollected that Rome, Sparta and Carthage, at the time when their liberties were lost, were strangers to the trial by jury."

For all purposes of justice a jury is the surest safe-guard of the liberty and property of the people; and the assertion that the middle class of Japan, from which juries would be drawn, is unfitted by the absence of "political education" from deciding upon common causes of wrongs done, is equivalent to a declaration that in England during the period when the castles of every noble and knight were dens from whence robbers and cut-throats issued to prey upon the weak and unoffending, and to supply their wants from the stores of those who laboured, and when every person not a churchman was clothed in the densest ignorance, the natives possessed a mental culture and political education superior to the Japanese of the present day.

If the argument is good that the middle class of Japan is unfitted to furnish a jury, it applies *a fortiori* to the government and the judges.—July 30.

#### THE BLOCKADE OF YOKOHAMA.

HOW many Japanese beyond the few who maintain a sort of blockade of the port of Yokohama, know that they have perfect and uncontrolled liberty to deal directly with foreigners free from the interference of the

Machigaisho, and without the intervention of *saitori*? How many know that they have a perfect right to disregard all obstacles imposed upon their trade by quasi-official regulations, local government decrees, and guild restrictions? Or know that they have a right, which cannot be questioned, to enter the foreign settlements, buy and sell there, and carry commodities in and out without interference from any persons whatever, and without payment of any tax upon those commodities which have been duly entered at the customs? We may answer from personal knowledge that beyond the foreign settlement very few people are aware that commercial intercourse directly with foreigners is secured to the Japanese people of all classes by the treaties of commerce entered into by their own government. The treaties of 1858 expressly stipulate for freedom of purchase and sale to and from Japanese without the intervention of any Japanese officers: this condition was affirmed and defined in the London protocol of 1862, wherein Earl Russell, the then minister for foreign affairs, agreed with the Japanese envoys, sent to England for the purpose of obtaining consent to defer the opening of the ports specified in the treaty of 1858, that the Japanese government will "specifically abolish and do away with all restrictions limiting the classes of persons who shall be allowed to trade with foreigners at the ports of Nagasaki, Hakodate and Kanagawa;" this condition was again strengthened and reaffirmed in the tariff convention of 1866, wherein "the government of Japan do not hesitate to declare that Japanese merchants and traders of all classes are at liberty to trade directly, and without the interference of government officers, with foreign merchants;" and so recently as 1873, H. E. TERASHIMA, then minister for foreign affairs, addressing the foreign representatives, declared that "all guilds being established at the option of the parties forming them, they cannot force others to become members or forcibly detain them as members of a guild if they do not break its regulations. As all merchants are not members of the said guild (in this case the particular guild referred to was the Kiito Aratame Kaisha) they have the right of trading freely with natives and foreigners without having their goods examined by the guild." This explicit communication was preceded by an imperial notification signed by H. E. OKUMA, giving notice that a Japanese may "freely enter into dealings with natives and foreigners whether he belong to a guild or not. Further, no obstacles are to be offered to the dealings of persons not belonging to a guild in respect of the transmission of their goods to an open port." Sir HARRY PARKES, H. B. M. minister, in transmitting copies of H. E. TERASHIMA's letter and the notification to the chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, referred to the latter as one "in which interference on the part of this or other guilds with the free action of dealers not belonging thereto is distinctly forbidden."

These notifications and opinions must necessarily be considered in connection with the attempts which have been made, some of them successfully, to evade not only the treaty conditions but the express decrees of the Japanese government. The prevailing opinion is that the government as a body, that is, the supreme council, are ignorant of the existence of combinations or guilds which invoke the aid of police, and assume an authority which readily imposes on the innocent country merchant who has no knowledge whatever of the conditions governing intercourse with foreigners and controlling trade with them. These abuses nevertheless do exist. There are

combinations which issue licenses to certain persons to deal with foreigners, all others being excluded. Should any person not licensed attempt to transact business with foreigners his goods are intercepted on entering or leaving the settlement by the spies posted at every avenue and approach thereto. The consequence of this is that the government, with the best intentions, and no doubt animated by an earnest desire to adhere in good faith to the commercial treaties, are placed in a false position by the acts of unauthorized persons, who impose upon the general trader to such an extent that the latter feels compelled to conduct his business with foreigners solely through the *saitori*, whose action upon trade generally is highly prejudicial to all concerned except themselves.

If the memorial of the foreign silk merchants deals with the general question of unauthorized interference with the free intercourse of foreigners with the Japanese people, it must have a beneficial effect apart from its particular object. Should the government accord a favourable hearing to the prayer of the memorialists, and issue a new and still more imperative notification declaring that no guild, association, or body of merchants, such as the silk combination, the *Machigaisho*, and others, have any power whatever to impose restrictions on trade directly with foreigners, or to levy transit charges on the property of natives so directly dealing, or to interfere in any manner with lawful buying and selling, a great and beneficial change would be at once experienced in commerce, and a much better, because more cordial, feeling would be established between the real producer and consumer and the foreign importer and exporter.

There are, we understand, one or two independent Japanese merchants recently established who have resolutely declined to recognize the assumed power of the *Machigaisho*; to submit to the illegal tax it levies on all goods passing into and out of the foreign settlement; or to be drawn into the association as members or licensees. This is the first blow struck at the roots of a pernicious monopoly to control all trade with foreigners, and to confine it to the hands of less than a dozen people who have, for ten years past, practically violated the provisions of the treaties and openly defied the notifications of their own government; acts which we hope will be impossible in future when the attention of the government is drawn to them.

The associations to which we refer may be likened into highwaymen who, setting aside all law, and disregarding all edicts issued for their suppression, prey upon those who believe they are defenceless because their assailants, with threats and overt acts, declare them to be so. What the public interest imperatively requires is that all people should be given to understand that these lawless threats may be despised, and that any proceeding beyond a threat may be punished on appeal to the law. There is now a department of agriculture and commerce, and that department may do good work by appointing a commission of inquiry to report on the manner in which trade with foreigners is invaded and injured by persons acting in defiance of the law. The point we desire to convey is that, while the law and the treaties distinctly declare all interference with free commercial and social intercourse of the whole of the Japanese people with foreigners to be illegal, a dozen or more persons daily violate both with perfect immunity from consequences.

If the Japanese press would make these questions public throughout the country much good would be done; but for reasons we are

wholly unable to fathom native newspapers entirely avoid the subject. The *Mai Nichi Shinbun* is patriotic and public-spirited enough to take up this question. It is surely not afraid of the consequences of offending the *Machigaisho*, or those other combinations which intervene with fresh restrictions when the *Machigaisho* fails. Fear of this kind is quite groundless, but of this the *Mai Nichi Shinbun* should be the best judge. We should be exceedingly grieved to see the public-spirited and honest *Mai Nichi Shinbun* subjected to fines for attacking abuses; and we certainly cannot afford to lose that estimable journal by suspension or suppression; but at the same time its apathy is not to be commended.—Aug. 3.

#### REDUCTION OF GROUND RENT.

THE comments lately made on this question appear to have been misunderstood, and as the matter is one of more than passing interest it may be dealt with at some length, particularly as the objections taken by this journal are erroneously said to have been traversed.

If land owners were invited to accept a new title deed with every existing condition intact with the exception of the stipulated annual rental; or, to quote the question asked, "is there a single owner of land in the settlement who would not be willing to surrender his title in exchange for a new one, the conditions of which, as to annual payments, &c., should be less onerous to him, provided the grantor should be willing to grant the relief prayed for?" there can be no doubt land owners would gladly agree to the change. But herein lies the point. The title deed is either a valid, binding agreement, or it is waste paper. No such agreement can be good in part; it is either entirely good or it is worthless; and it seems justifiable to assume that the title deed is an invariable contract defining the liabilities of the grantees of the land in respect of all taxation leviable thereon. This is far from being a superfluous issue, under which term should rather be included comparisons between the trade of Shanghai and Yokohama, or the respective merits of the municipal governments of the two settlements. The issue raised is that, so long as the lessee pays the stipulated ground rent, and observes the other conditions of the lease, he is absolved from all other taxation in respect of his holding. If these conditions are liable to variation by agreement other than between the lessor and lessee, it is obvious that the alleged contract is valueless. We hold the conditions are not so liable. This contention is met with the assertion that if our position were tenable, all the other clauses contained in the treaties and conventions applicable to foreigners, are equally beyond the range of diplomacy. This is not a reasonable conclusion. In this particular case an agreement has been entered into with a *third* party, whose consent is essential to any alteration in that agreement.

Coming to the agreement itself we hold that payment of the ground rent covers all municipal charges. The convention of December 3rd, 1864, section V., provides that the proceeds of the land sales shall constitute a municipal fund. The convention of December 19th, 1864 contains the following section which it is advisable to quote in full:—

XII.—Finally in order to avoid all further discussion about the keeping of roads, drainage, clearing of streets and other municipal objects, for which hitherto the Japanese local

authorities have been held responsible in view of the high rental paid by all foreign leaseholders, it has been agreed that these objects shall henceforth be secured by the foreign land renters themselves, and towards the expenses that must be incurred annually there shall be a deduction of 20 per cent. from the yearly rent paid by all lands leased to foreigners, to be paid into the municipal fund.

These clauses lead to the belief that the ground rent includes all imperial, local, and municipal taxation while extra-territoriality remains a condition of the treaties: and a short sketch of the rise of municipal government in Yokohama will support this belief. Prior to 1863 the settlement had no supervision: every resident did as he or she pleased: the streets were encumbered with filth and garbage; and unsold or unbuilt on lots of land were receptacles for all the refuse and abominations of the place. In that year Mr. N. P. KINGDON undertook, single-handed and at his own expense, the cleansing of the streets and the formation of some system which should eventually resolve itself into a municipality. In 1864 the government consented to grant one-fifth of the ground rents for municipal purposes, and the first council was formed, the governor of Kanagawa having previously complimented Mr. KINGDON on his action, and refunded the charges to which he had been subjected. The foreign council continued its duties until 1867, when the revenue proving insufficient for the growing wants of the place, and the government being of opinion that they could carry out the work for the proportion of ground rent granted to the council, the latter ceased to exercise its functions, and municipal control passed into the hands of the governor of Kanagawa. To secure to foreign residents some sort of representation it was agreed to appoint a foreign superintendent or director, and Mr. MARTIN DOHMEN temporarily filled that post; but his administration not proving acceptable to foreigners, the latter were invited to elect one of their own nominees, their choice falling upon Mr. BENSON, who became municipal director in 1868. This office was abolished about four years ago, since when there has been no nominal foreign director or superintendent. Notwithstanding the election by the land owners the superintendent was in the service of and paid by the Japanese government: and at the present moment ground rent is held to cover all municipal charges which are, and always have been, borne by the government. This is the position which, it is said, may be varied by agreement between the Japanese government and the ministers of the treaty powers, there being an assumption that the rent now payable would be reduced, thereby removing all possibility of objection on the part of the holders of title deeds.

An article of the alleged proposals for treaty revision has been quoted to prove that the Japanese government do contemplate a reduction of ground rent. A passage in that clause runs as follows:—

Until the annual sum . . . of ground rent payable to the government . . . has been reduced to the same amount as the sum annually payable at the same period to the said government by the native subjects in reference to the ownership of land in the respective neighbourhoods—subjects shall be exempt from the payment of all local taxes, and from all direct taxes, whether imperial or local.

The clear meaning of this section is that, so soon as foreigners are subject to local or



imperial taxation, ground rent shall be reduced to the same rate as is payable by Japanese subjects; and a suggestion has been thrown out for the guidance of foreign ministers to the effect that "there is no valid reason to prevent foreigners' rent being placed on the same level with that of the natives in towns." Assuming the foreign ministers should act upon this suggestion, and agree with the Japanese government to equalise the rentals paid by foreigners with those paid by natives, what will be the result? Inquiry made shows that a plot of one hundred *tsubo* situate in Sakai-cho pays the following taxes, namely,  $2\frac{1}{2}\%$  land tax,  $\frac{2}{3}\%$  local tax, and 5 per cent. municipal tax, in all  $8\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. Land in this situation represents a low average valuation, yet the assessment for this lot is 1,800 yen. Foreigners pay a land rental of \$27.98 per 100 *tsubo*; a Japanese pays land rental, 45 yen; local tax, 15 yen; municipal tax 90 yen; in all 150 yen. Take the land tax alone on one acre of ground on the same basis. At present the annual charge is \$338.56; reduced "to the same level with that of the natives in towns" it would be yen 544.50, or if exchange is to be considered, \$340.31. If we demand to be put on the same footing as the natives we must not insist upon those concessions only which are supposed to be in our favour; we must give, as is recommended, a *quid pro quo* for that for which we ask; and no foreign minister will press upon the government the reduction of foreigners' ground rent to a level with that of the natives, without consenting to the same imposts as the natives bear in addition to imperial taxation, and for which we receive in return quite as much in the shape of municipal advantages as the Japanese. In such case, the holder of an acre of land in the settlement would have to pay yen 1,815, or \$1,134.38, or three and one-half times more than he pays now, putting on one side the numberless squeezes and inquisitorial proceedings to which the native householder is subjected.

This journal is accused of being "wise in its own conceit" by averring that the question of ground rent is not one for diplomatic interference; and hopes have been expressed that our remarks will be properly appreciated by the community, an evident insinuation that the interests of the latter have been betrayed. Fair play is a jewel of great price; and when a species of threatening demand is proposed to be made upon the Japanese government it is the duty of an independent journalist to ascertain how far that demand is justified, and what the effects will be if it is pressed. We have done this; and the result before our readers tells them plainly enough that, so far as ground rent in the settlement is concerned, Yokohama is in a better position than Shanghai, while it pays but little more than 30 per cent. of the taxes borne by the natives in the adjoining town; and there is the probability of this article having the much to be desired effect of saving the foreign ministers from overtures which would place them in a thoroughly false position.

We cannot take leave of this subject without pointing out the great difference between land in the settlement and on the bluff. The first is for business purposes; nearly every yard of space is utilized: the second is for purposes of private dwelling and pleasure ground. On the bluff some reduction could be with advantage recommended. Let a certain area, say 300 *tsubo*, of each lot pay the rental now fixed, namely, \$12 per 100 *tsubo*; the remainder, which is seldom used

for any other purpose than as a flower or kitchen garden, to pay as Japanese pay for land in similar situations. We understand the assessed value of arable land is 47 yen per tan; and on the revised basis the rental of a lot of 1,500 *tsubo*, a nice but by no means extensive bluff compound, now paying an annual rental of \$180, would be reduced to \$42.28. The rental payable by a Japanese subject for the same area of suburban land being only yen 7.85. Such a reduction would be highly appreciated, but it can only be brought about by voluntary concession on the part of the government, diplomatic interference in such a matter being manifestly out of the question.

Finally, our readers may have reason to feel grateful to us for exposing the trap laid for them by rash advisers who do not take the trouble to ascertain the facts of the matter before forming their opinion; and come to the conclusion that it will be best not to disturb the ground rent question at all.—  
Aug. 6.

## Miscellaneous Articles.

### THE NEW SILK GUILD.

THE *Japan Mail*, in treating the question which has arisen regarding the practices of the silk trade, argues in the same way as Sir E. J. REED does in his accusations against Sir HARRY PARKES, namely, by hearsay from a very low source. The *Japan Mail* follows this lead, and argues upon the representations of its coadjutor the *Chiugai Bukka Shinpo*, which has for its principal contributor a foreign gentleman who is either in the service of the government officially, or as a recompensed adviser.

The *Japan Mail* says it is premature for the foreign community to take any steps against the action of the silk guild; but if such steps were necessary the proper method was take them through the chairman of the Chamber of Commerce. It is as well that the *Mail* should be put right on this point at once, in order that it shall not fall into similar error in future. The foreign ministers well know that as all the mercantile houses in Yokohama do not choose to become members of the Chamber of Commerce, a full meeting of the latter body might not possibly represent the true opinion of the full mercantile community. Moreover, a meeting of the chamber is rarely attended by all the members, the rule being that such meetings command the attendance of but few. A communication of the chairman to the ministers, therefore, would be in accordance with the decision of the majority of a meeting, which meeting would possibly not be a majority of the chamber; and, as the chamber is not the totality of our commerce, *a fortiori* the communication of the chairman might be opposed to the sense of the general body of merchants proper. A document which reaches the ministers signed by all the commercial houses in Yokohama who are interested in a particular class of trade, must have more influence than a document presented by the Chamber of Commerce, because the ministers, on reference to the document and signatures, can satisfy themselves of the unanimity of the commercial community; while they have an opportunity of inquiring from non-signatories their reasons for refusing to identify themselves with the memorial.

The *Chiugai Bukka Shinpo* and the *Mail* consider it is foolish on the part of foreign merchants to memorialise their ministers against the formation of a guild or combination voluntarily established, and of a private character. This assumption shows that both these journals have been misinformed as to the object of the memorial to the diplomatic body. The object of the memorial is, so far as we have been able to learn, not to appeal to the government to prevent the formation of the guild, but to save Japanese traders from intimidation by the guild, which they may regard as under the protection of some government authority. The people in the interior are not yet sufficiently informed of the illegality of the existing *Machigaisho* to warrant them in offering any resistance to its rules. These people are afraid that if the rules of the *Machigaisho* are not observed, their property may be confiscated and the owners subjected to heavy fines. Of the abuse of this institution, and the facility with which it can and does invoke the aid of the police, there are abundant illustrations which the *Mail* can collect on inquiry. The impression prevailing with regard to the *Machigaisho* and its powers, prevails with regard to all combinations of the few persons who have usurped, and continue to hold, the sole right of dealing with foreign merchants. Under these circumstances the action of foreign merchants is decidedly not premature in asking the diplomatic body to solicit the government to issue proclamations, similar to those issued in 1873, to the effect that no guilds can be formed with a power to inflict fines or penalties upon those who choose to act independently of them; and that all guilds attempting any act of intimidation will be summarily dealt with.

The *Chiugai Bukka Shinpo* and the *Mail* evidently wish the public to infer that the government have no information respecting this undertaking, which is purely one of a private character. This, however, does not agree with the information received by the foreign community from the Japanese silk traders of Yokohama, who declare that on the 15th of July a deputation of their number was received at the Naimusho, and another subsequently on the 21st. What passed there has not been revealed. If the government as a body know nothing about the proposed arrangements, some officers of the government do know. It is also unknown whether a charter has been drawn up sufficiently explicit for presentation for government approval, but we may tell the *Chiugai Bukka Shinpo* and the *Mail* what is known. The Japanese silk brokers doing business here affirm that all silk merchants in the interior have forced them, against their conviction, to attempt to establish this guild. This is one side of the question. We know on the other side, from interviews between silk growers in the interior and foreign buyers who went into the country to ascertain the progress of the crop, that silk merchants there complained of the intended establishment of the guild, but were forced to promise to join it by the silk brokers of Yokohama who were licensed for the sale and control of their produce. These two accounts are very conflicting; and it is extremely difficult to discover, or attempt to decide, which of the two stories is true. If the producers in the interior tell the truth it is high time the government should notify them that they are free to evade impositions attempted to be put upon them by the silk brokers of this port, and therefore the memorial of the foreign merchants has not only not been premature,

but has been urgently called for and absolutely needed.

We hear every day of discontents who have signed the agreement to become members of this guild; and their excuse is they cannot well afford not to sign it although they are entirely opposed to the principle of its formation. They hint at an outside pressure which might harm them. So it appears the formation of this guild is not entirely voluntary. We hear of producers in the interior who complain bitterly of being obliged to pay a heavy commission to the licensed silk brokers for the sale of their, the producers', silk to foreign exporters; and that very few know they can sell to a foreigner direct without subjecting their silk to confiscation or themselves to heavy penalties. So confused are the persons resident beyond the open ports in regard to the position in which they stand towards foreigners, that they have resolved to incur no risk, imaginary or otherwise, by evading the licensed dealers who reap a rich harvest from the credulity, timidity, and ignorance of the people of the country whom they pretend are not allowed to come into direct contact with foreign merchants.

All these points, we again repeat, call for the immediate action of the government of Japan to protect producers against the wiles of guilds in the open ports; and to sustain the treaties which repeat themselves on this one point, namely, that there shall be prohibition of interference in trade between Japanese of all classes and foreign merchants. —Aug 2.

### SENSATIONAL JOURNALISM IN HONGKONG.

CHARLES LAMB, in his *Essays of Elia*, somewhere says that one invariably takes up a paper with curiosity and lays it down with disappointment. It must be confessed that the adage nowhere holds good more than it does in the Far East. Day after day, papers are taken up only to be thrown down in a minute or two with a contemptuous 'pehaw!' or a surly complaint about there being "nothing in it." We are well aware that such complaints are only too well founded. But then our readers will readily admit that it is rather a difficult matter to record events which never happen. In plain terms, when there is nothing to say we have only to say it as gracefully as we can.

The late CHARLES DICKENS, in his description of the "free and independent" borough of Eatonswill, gives a lively account of the manner in which its two papers were conducted, and ridiculed with all the force of his satire the low, scurrilous abuse in which papers at home formerly too frequently indulged. Until within the last few days, we were under the impression that the style of writing pursued by the *Eatonswill Gazette* and the *Eatonswill Independent* had become extinct altogether. But we find we are mistaken. The class of Journalists, of which Mr. POTTS was a type, is not quite defunct. No farther off than Hongkong one of them is beginning to show himself in his true colours. Our young contemporary the *Hongkong Telegraph* is commencing to adopt a kind of Billingsgate towards the other two papers of the colony which calls for something more than ordinary censure.

The *China Mail*, in its issue of the 25th. July, comments on the resignation by Dr. STEWART of the acting colonial secretaryship, and in the course of his remarks, expressed some strong, but probably only too

well-deserved, censure of the line of policy pursued by Governor HENNESSEY. This excited the ire of the *Hongkong Telegraph* who is an ardent admirer and warm supporter of that strong-minded ruler and accordingly in his issue of the 26th. July he accordingly takes the *Mail* to task in a manner somewhat new to this part of the world. We have neither space nor inclination to reproduce our young contemporary's article *in extenso*; in fact it would scarcely repay perusal if we had. But however, to give our readers an idea of the kind of writing indulged in by Mr. FRASER-SMITH, the gentlemen who rules the destinies of the *Hongkong Telegraph*, we give the following "flowers of rhetoric" which we have culled at random:—"Illogical and grossly ungrammatical contemporary the *China Mail*," "blackguardly attack," "cowardly lie," "blackguardly falsehoods," "glaring untruth," "scandalous falsehood."

The *China Mail*, be it observed, has never once either directly or indirectly mentioned the name of the *Hongkong Telegraph* or in anyway recognised its existence. Still, the shoe has pinched in some way or another, for the *Telegraph* says:—

"We declare that the insinuations of the *China Mail* to the effect that our columns have been suborned by the Governor to traduce his subordinates, or to write up his policy, or for any purpose whatever, are blackguardly falsehoods which, but for the respect we owe to ourselves and the law, we should feel inclined to resent in an unorthodox fashion." The plain English of all this we take to be that, but for fear of consequences in the way of retaliation or through a wholesome dread of a policeman, the editor of the *Telegraph*, should he chance to encounter the gentleman who conducts the *China Mail*, would be very much inclined to punch the latter's head. If words convey any meaning at all, this is the only reasonable construction we can place on the remarks above quoted from the *Hongkong Telegraph*.

The *China Mail* and the *Daily Press*—who by the way has also come in for his share of abuse—to their credit be it observed, have uniformly treated the utterances of the *Hongkong Telegraph* with silent contempt. Separated as we are from Hongkong we are not bound to follow the same rule. We have no hesitation in saying that the line of conduct commenced by Mr. FRASER-SMITH is calculated to reflect the utmost disgrace, not only on himself but on the press of the Far East generally. Had he been an older hand in the profession we should be inclined to say a great deal more than we have. We are always ready to lean to the side of mercy and charity and are therefore willing to attribute his ill-advised remarks rather to (journalistic) youth and inexperience than to any natural depravity of heart or disposition. We trust he will receive our remarks in the same spirit as that in which we have written them and that he may be induced to assume a more courteous way of expressing himself when next he may have occasion to differ in opinion from his local contemporaries. —Aug. 5.

### INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT.

WE are glad to perceive a fair chance of arriving at a satisfactory and equitable solution of the much vexed question of copyright between England and America. Mr. LOWELL, the United States minister in London, has submitted to the British government the draft of a

proposed treaty on the subject. It provides that a British author can acquire copyright of his works on the same terms as an American citizen by concluding an arrangement with an American publisher, and having the works printed and published in America three months after publication in England. A copy must also be presented to the library of Congress at Washington. It is also proposed that if the copyright of a work in the United States be secured, the English edition shall be excluded. This draft has been submitted to the Board of Trade, and to committees of authors and publishers. The former proposes that the term within which copyright can be obtained should be extended from three to six months, and that, while no export of English editions of copyright books to the United States shall be permitted, leave shall be given to import American editions of those books to England. It is difficult to understand why this latter distinction should be made; indeed, it is not clear why there should not, in case of this treaty coming into operation, be a free-trade in books between the two countries. English authors and publishers unite in condemning the second of the Board of Trade proposals as really rendering English copyright worthless, and came to the conclusion that if the term were extended from three months to a year, the draft proposed by Mr. LOWELL afforded a basis for negotiation.

The chief opposition which this treaty will encounter will probably come from America itself. Mr. CAREY, the well-known protectionist writer—indeed he may almost be called the modern apostle of protection—was very strongly opposed to any such arrangement, and his followers in the United States are both numerous and powerful. He maintains the peculiar position that no author has produced anything new; but that all books—MACAULAY'S history, for instance—contain only what was already common property, and are only more or less skilful arrangements of the letters of the alphabet. He holds that this is not the kind of work for which an alien should receive pecuniary remuneration within the United States; fame should be quite sufficient for them. It is to be hoped, however, that visionary theories of this description will not be allowed to interfere seriously with the settlement of a question which has, for more than forty years, been the source of much heartburning and vexation between the two countries.

The question is of small importance in Japan; but we must confess it has always seemed to us petty and unfair that the several departments in Tokio should reprint and publish (for the reprints can be purchased at any bookseller's shop in Tokio) English and American works which can be obtained at very low prices from the original publishers. A copyright law would, as yet, be of small use either to Japan or to foreign authors; but it may be that the government, when dealing with the important matters of patent laws and the law of trademarks, will also make some provision for the allied law of copyright in their own interest.

In a paper on copyright in China, recently read by Dr. MACGOWAN before the North China branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, we notice that reference is made to the manner in which some Chinese works, forming the chief subsistence of their authors, are pirated by Japanese publishers and imported into China. Should the government of the latter country desire to put a stop to this traffic it can easily do so by simply seizing the reprints at the custom houses. This

incident seems to show that the Japanese tradesman has but very few tricks of trade to learn from his western colleague.

According to the *Athenaeum*, the subject of international copyright between China and Japan is at present receiving consideration in these countries, though we have heard nothing of it here. Chinese authors complain that their works are reprinted in Japan, and then imported into China, where they are sold at a much lower rate than can be done by the Chinese publisher, who pays a certain sum to the author. Dr. MacGowan quoted an instance of an artist and poet at Ningpo who published several hundred of his choice pictures accompanied by stanzas. These have been pirated in Japan, and are sold in China at half the price of the original. The Chinese themselves can meet this wrong by prohibiting the importation of pirated editions; but it is to be hoped the Japanese will render this form of fraud a criminal offence by passing a copyright law.

Some other points in the same paper as to the position of Chinese authors are of such interest that we may refer briefly to them. Chinese law has no special enactment against literary piracy; but "those who infringe the rights of an author are liable to a punishment of one hundred blows and three years' deportation, if they print and sell his works without authority; but if the trespass has gone no further than printing, no copies having been sold, the punishment inflicted is only fifty blows, and forfeiture of the books and blocks." The right, moreover, of an author in his works is perpetual, and descends to his children or heirs, like any other property. Chinese writers professedly work for fame, not for profit. They make no arrangement with publishers, as it would be undignified; "they have their books cut and printed on their own premises, and then sell them to the trade, usually at twice the cost of publication." A writer of merit, however poor, never fails to find a Macenas; "men high in office, or possessed of affluence, are always to be found who will defray the cost of printing for the honour thereof, leaving all the pecuniary advantage to the author."

By the aid of photography, we have lately become familiar with almost microscopic printing; such as copies of *The Times* sent into Paris during the siege in which a page of the leading paper was accurately reproduced on a surface three inches by two: but this marvel is surpassed by one recorded by Dr. MacGowan. A Chinese calligrapher, in his seventy-sixth year, without the aid of a glass, and with pencil and ink prepared by himself, wrote a passage from Confucius comprising sixty-seven characters, having three hundred and eighty-nine strokes, on a bit of spear-shaped ivory, the edges being flattened, with a superficies of one *forty-six thousandth* of a square inch. It is further stated that specimens exist of some of his writing in earlier years having more than twice that number of characters in the same space!—*Aug. 6.*

The following is the return of exports and imports for June last, published by the customs authorities:—

	Yen.
Exports ... ..	2,833,493.518
Imports ... ..	2,247,662.712
Excess of exports...	585,830.806
Duties, &c. ... ..	207,644.567
Export of specie & bullion.	310,257.990
Import of " " "	117,332.000

## Reports.

### THE LOSS OF THE "ABERDONIAN" AND THE "ANNIE S. HALL."

The *Shanghai Courier* of the 21st July says:—Another vessel has been added to the list of wrecks on the China Coast within the last few days. The *Aberdonian*, with a captain, two officers, and a Chinese cook, making 24 hands all told, left Chefoo a short time ago on a voyage to Foochow, and on Friday last encountered the typhoon which was experienced in Shanghai on the same night. Since then four Chinese, three sailors, and a supercargo have arrived at Ningpo, and have been forwarded by the *Kiang-teen* to this port where they arrived to-day. They state that their vessel was wrecked on Friday about ten miles from Poo-too, between that island and Oushu, and that the vessel went down in about fifteen minutes. They and two others saved themselves by clinging to planks and floating wreckage, and they are of opinion that the remainder of the crew may have been saved the same way, and have drifted on shore on some of the islands in the vicinity of the place where the wreck occurred. They themselves drifted on the island of Oushu, after they had been twelve hours in the water. H.B.M.'s Consul has communicated with the commander of the *Foxhound*, with a view to the vessel proceeding to the Chusan group to search for the survivors. The *Aberdonian*, official number 27,751, Shanghai, was a three-masted schooner and the property of the Shanghai Shipowners' Association. The *Foxhound* leaves to-morrow morning at 5 o'clock to search for the remainder of the *Aberdonian's* crew.—*Aug. 3.*

The *N.-O. Daily News* of the 23rd July has the following:—The gale that took place last Friday night, fortunately without inflicting any very serious damage here or in the neighbourhood, appeared to have caused the loss of at least two vessels in the vicinity of the Chusan Archipelago and the islands to the S.W. of that group. We hear of the loss of the *Aberdonian*, Captain Coig, about eleven o'clock on the night of Friday, not far from Pootoo, and of the American three-masted schooner *Annie S. Hall*, Captain Nelson, on the south end of the Taichow islands, about two o'clock the next morning. The *Aberdonian*, it is said struck on a rock and went to pieces in a very short time; the *Annie S. Hall* went down at her anchors not far from the beach. There were 25 men on board the *Aberdonian*; six men saved themselves, of whom two are now at Ningpo, but what has become of the other nineteen is not known. H.M.S. *Foxhound* left this port yesterday to search for them. As far as we can learn, only one life was lost on the *Annie S. Hall*, a man being killed when the deck-house was smashed in by the sea. Before the vessel sunk, the captain and others, numbering 13 in all, got ashore in a boat. They were taken off the Island on which they found themselves by the Chinese gunboat *Chai An* on the following day, and after going in to Wenchow, are now on their way to Shanghai in her. The C.M.S.N. Co.'s steamer *Yungning*, Captain Buchanan, was out in the gale, and reports that the wind blew from N.E. to S.E. by way of E., and seemed to rage with the greatest violence from about four in the morning of Friday till eleven at night.—*Aug. 3.*

### LOSS OF THE "ANNIE S. HALL."

We have been favoured by Captain C. H. Nelson, of the late barquentine *Annie S. Hall*, with the following report of her loss:—

Friday, 15th July.—Left Newchwang for Hongkong with a cargo of beans and general merchandise; crossed the Newchwang bar on the 1st July; and all went well till the 15th July, at 9 a.m., when it commenced to be very squally, attended with a heavy sea from the S.E., and plenty of rain; handed all the light sails and put two reefs in the spanker. Bar. 29.45.

Saturday, 15th July.—This day commenced with increasing gale and a very heavy sea, and barometer falling fast. 1 p.m., blowing a heavy gale from the S.E.; reefed and furled the upper topsail and foresail, and close-reefed the mainsail. At 5.30 p.m. blowing a complete typhoon, the wind hauling more to the southward, which caused the vessel to fall off into the trough of the sea. Shipped a very heavy sea which carried away the main and foretopmast stay-sails, stove in the cabin doors, and washed away the skylights on the top of the house. Shipped another tremendous sea, which tore away the poop railing, which the fore-brace leading blocks were fast to; washed the stern boat away out of the davits, and swept away the after hatch house containing the carpenter's shop and storeroom, and completely filling the cabin, breaking down bulkheads and sweeping everything before it; hove the ship nearly on her beam ends, and making a wreck of everything about the deck, disabling the pumps, and making the ship totally unmanageable and at the mercy of the sea, which kept continually breaking over her, and sweeping everything before it; lower foretopmast blown away. At 7 p.m., made the land on our lee bow, the Island of Soudan bearing about W. by S., distant about ten to twelve miles; found by the lead that we were shoaling the water fast; and a strong current setting the ship inshore, let go both anchors with all the starboard chain, and thirty fathoms on the port chain when it fouled on the windlass and we were unable to clear it, but the anchors held her and brought her head more to the sea. At 8.30 p.m., shipped another tremendous sea, which stove in the forward house, sweeping away everything it contained, seamen's effects, the galley stove, cooking utensils, killing and washing overboard the cook (Chinese), and badly bruising the steward; tearing away the starboard water tanks, and carrying away the tiller, the ship by this time laying over so that her hatches were in the water; the same sea also washed away bulkheads and completely gutted the cabin sweeping away everything it contained, and allowing the water to run with full force down the hold. The ship being completely strewn with wreckage, pumps disabled, and all axes, saws, and carpenter's tools being washed overboard, we could not cut away any of the wreck. Lay this way all night, and at daylight found the vessel sinking fast; got a boat out and left the ship at 8 a.m., getting into the boat with great difficulty off the end of the spanker-boom. The ship sunk ten minutes after we left her. We pulled away for the land into the westward as near as we could, the wind still blowing very hard and a very heavy sea running, and a strong current setting to the northward, we were obliged to keep the boat before the sea and wind. At noon, landed on the Island of Fangme, one of the Tai-chow group, where we were kindly treated by the natives, and provided with dry clothing and food, they making



us as comfortable as their means would allow.

Sunday, July 17th.—At 6 p.m., saw a steamer to the N.W. of the Island, and pulled off for her; she proved to be the Chinese gunboat *Chi-An*, No. 11, Captain Lew Buah, with a Chinese Admiral on board, who kindly took us on board and brought us to Wenchow, where they were bound, and arrived there at 1 p.m. July 18th. Stayed there two days leaving on the afternoon of the 20th instant. On the 21st arrived at the Chusan Islands, from which place we left on the 22nd for Ningpo, and arrived there the same day at 11.30 a.m.—Aug. 4.

### MELANCHOLY DEATH OF COMMANDER SCOTT, R.N.

The *N. O. Daily News* of the 22nd July gives the following particulars of the above sad event:—Commander Scott arrived at this port on the 12th of June last in H.M.S. *Lapwing*, of which vessel he was in command on the 17th April last, when a collision occurred between her and the C.M.S.N. Co.'s steamer *Hochung*, Captain Petersen, whereby the latter vessel was sunk. She was then on a voyage from Shanghai to Hongkong, and the *Hochung* was coming to this port from Swatow. A suit was brought in H.M.'s Supreme Court for China and Japan against Captain Scott, by the owners of the *Hochung*, for compensation for her loss, and he in turn entered a cross suit against them to recover the sums that had been spent in repairing the damages the *Lapwing* sustained on the night in question. It had been arranged that the suits should be heard at one and the same time, and they came on for hearing on Wednesday, the 13th inst., and the entire time of the Court since then has been occupied with them. Captain Scott was the last witness called by his Counsel, and he occupied the witness box part of Wednesday morning and all of the afternoon. Mr. Drummond had been engaged in cross-examining him for some time, and yesterday morning the cross-examination was to have been continued. But unfortunately it turned out that Captain Scott would never appear before His Lordship again sitting in his judicial capacity. A little before nine o'clock the doctor of H. M. S. *Lapwing* was walking about the deck of the ship with Lieut. Bignold when he heard what sounded like a shot. His attention was sufficiently attracted by the sound to cause him to exclaim; "Good gracious Bignold, what's that?" Very shortly after the captain's servant rushed upon deck saying that his master had shot himself. The sad announcement proved to be only too true. The doctor hastened below, and found the unfortunate Commander lying on the floor of his sleeping cabin, shot through the head. He died shortly before ten o'clock, never recovering consciousness. Mr. R. A. Mowat, Acting Chief Justice of H. M.'s Supreme Court, in his position as Coroner, without delay, opened an inquest on the body, and it was arranged that the deceased officer should be buried with the honours becoming his station in the afternoon at half-past five. At four o'clock the bunting which had decorated the ship in honour of the birthday of H.I.M. the Emperor of China was taken off, and this operation was also performed on board H.M.S. *Foxhound*, H.I.R.M.S. *Morge*, the U. S.S. *Palos* and the Revenue cruiser *Kwachung*, the national ensigns all being lowered to half-mast at the same time. The Consular flags and those on all the merchant vessels in

harbour were also lowered and the yards of the *Lapwing* were "topped." The coffin left the *Lapwing* at half-past five, the first of twenty minute-guns being fired at that time. On its arrival at the P. & O. jetty, the coffin was placed on the top of one of the brass howitzers of the S.V.A., of which Corps about a dozen members were present, under the command of Captain Dallas. The funeral procession was then formed and marched along the Bund in the following order:—The firing party, consisting of thirty-two seamen from H.M.S. *Lapwing* with arms reversed, in charge of the gunner, Mr. James Hall; then the coffin, followed by Lieut. Water L. Bignold and Lieut. the Hon. W. Grimston, and Staff-Surgeon William D. Wadsworth as chief mourners. The pallbearers on the left were Commander J.M. McQuhae, H.M.S. *Foxhound*, and Mr. W. E. E. Read, Assistant Paymaster; on the right, Mr. Alex. Beattie, Chief Engineer, and Mr. John Kerr, Assistant Engineer. About twenty marines came next, followed by some forty sailors from H.M.S. *Lapwing* and *Foxhound*, and behind them were twelve or fifteen petty officers. Fourteen of the Shanghai Light Horse, under the command of Lieut. Brodie A. Clarke marched next, being followed in turn by twenty or thirty members of the Shanghai Volunteer Corps accompanied by half-a-dozen of their officers. Commander Green, of the U.S.S. *Palos*, Lieutenant Entwistle, Lieut. Maclean, Paymaster Peterson, and one or two officers of H.M.S. *Foxhound*, brought up the rear of the pedestrian portion of the procession. A line of carriages followed containing Chief Justice Mowat, the various Consuls, Mr. W. Handyside Tapp, H.M.'s Registrar of Shipping, and Captain Petersen, of the late steamer *Hochung*, &c. On arriving at Defence Creek, a guard of honour, consisting of twenty-four men with rifles and fixed bayonets, under charge of Lieut. Egorieff, from the Russian gunboat *Morge*, fell in behind the Volunteers, and marched to the Cemetery. The service at the grave was impressively performed by the Rev. W. Groves, of Hongkong, and at its conclusion the English and Russian firing parties each fired three volleys alternately over the grave.—Aug. 3.

### THE U.S.S. "ALERT'S" EXPLORATIONS.

On the 16th of April last the U. S. gunboat *Alert* steamed out of the harbour of Yokohama for the purpose of continuing those explorations of the waters in the neighbourhood of the Bonin Islands and the Mariana or Ladrone group, in which she had been so signally successful last summer. The undertaking had its difficulties. The vessel itself is small and not considered by the officers as especially adapted for the expedition upon which it had pleased the authorities at Washington to send her, being ill ventilated and affording but very indifferent accommodation. Hard work and anxiety also necessarily fall upon the officers and men of a small vessel engaged in surveying a part of the ocean but comparatively little known, and that little, apparently, very inaccurately marked on the British Admiralty charts.

The day after leaving Yokohama the little gunboat encountered a terrific gale which tested her sea-going qualities considerably, the wind carrying away her bowsprit and jib-boom, and doing other damage; and the repairing of the vessel occupied some time on her arrival at the Bonin Islands, which was on the 19th of April.

The Bonin Islands had been selected as the rendezvous of the *Alert* from their proximity to the waters to be surveyed; and some five hundred tons of coal had been despatched from Nagasaki for her use during her stay in that locality.

Having repaired and coaled, the gunboat left Port Lloyd, which is the principal harbour in the group, on the 3rd May, shaping a course for an island set down on the charts as Forfana Island, and which is said to have been discovered by the captain of a Spanish merchantman in the year 1583. Although the British Admiralty maps place the position of this island, its existence appears to have been doubted for some time; and with the object of settling the point definitively the *Alert* cruised towards the spot where it was supposed to be, and examined it and the neighbourhood most thoroughly. Having run though the spot represented on the charts as an island, the steamer went about ten miles north when a deep sea sounding was taken, resulting in bottom being found in 1,053 fathoms. The vessel's head was then turned east for a distance of twenty-five miles, then thirteen miles south, fifty miles west, thirteen north, and twenty-five east again back to the original starting point. When south of the supposed island another sounding was taken, bottom being found in 2,212 fathoms. Having carefully examined a space of water sixty-five miles in longitude and thirty-eight miles in latitude, finding deep water in every direction, and seeing no island nor any appearance of shoal or reef, the commander of the *Alert* and his officers came to the very reasonable conclusion that the island did not exist, never had existed, and that the Admiralty charts, so far as it was concerned, require rectifying. In the words of an officer, to whom we are indebted for these details:—"Forfana was a myth, the product of the Spanish captain's brains after an unusually heavy dinner; or else he mistook San Alessandro—which is in nearly the same latitude, but one hundred and twenty miles further west—for the island he was pleased to christen Forfana."

The system of taking deep sea soundings is probably as little known among landmen as the art of printing to an ordinary seaman. And though we do not purpose to lay before our readers an elaborately detailed description of the machinery employed, a few general remarks on one of the soundings taken by the *Alert* may not be without interest.

The night was clear and calm, a bright moon shedding its silvery rays upon the placid surface of the ocean. As the vessel approached the spot where it had been previously arranged soundings should be taken, the officer in charge of the deck rings "one bell" to slow the ship; and soon afterwards "two bells" to stop her. All but those engaged in the operation and in taking charge of the ship are fast asleep; and the perfect stillness is only broken by the orders of the officer and the getting of the machinery over the side. The sounding apparatus used is that invented by Sir Wm. Thompson, with an improvement in paying out the wire by one of the officers on board. The wire is also run back on the reel by an attachment to the donkey engine for hoisting ashes, which is another addition suggested by one of the officers, and which effects a great saving of time and labour. As soon as the ship is still a fifty-five pound shot, which detaches from the line on reaching the bottom, is carefully lowered into the

water until the stray line is all paid out and the strain is brought on the wire—small pianoforte wire is used. The officer now calls out "time," and the break being taken off, the wheel on which the wire is wound commences to revolve, and the shot goes on its journey to the bottom—a more peaceful mission than fifty-five pound shots are usually sent on—there to remain until the sea dries up and is no more. The quarter-master tending the wire calls out "splice;" the officer calls "one hundred" as each hundred fathom is reeled off, and the monotonous "clank, clank" of the rapidly revolving wheel are the only sounds. All around the instrument have their particular duties to attend to, and each is bent on doing his share thoroughly. "Six hundred" then "seven hundred" is called, and yet the wheel clanks on. Eventually "bottom, Sir," is reported, and in a couple of minutes the belt is in its place, the donkey engine commences work, and the specimen cup to which the weight was attached, begins its return journey. The wire is reeled back at the rate of one hundred and fifty fathoms per minute, and soon the messenger comes along with a note on which are the words—"Cast No. 5. Depth 2212 fathoms. Bottom brown ooze, grey sand, black specks." One bell is rung, then four bells and the work is over. Time, 1h. 20m. As soon as the work is completed the wheel and wire are placed in a large tank of oil and potash, having first been carefully washed with fresh water. The specimen from the bottom is put into a bottle, labelled with the date and number of cast, and placed in a box, there to remain until it can be examined at Washington.

In running the line round unknown islands and shoals, the greatest care and vigilance is required, consequently sights are taken both day and night. Two "look-outs" are kept aloft during the day, and several men on the rail at night, to look for suspicious rocks or patches of anything on the surface of the water. Great care has to be exercised in working up currents. Then the chronometer ratings have to be both numerous and perfect. It is obvious, therefore, that there is plenty for every one to do.

Having completed surveying the waters in the locality set down on the charts as Forfano Island, and ascertained beyond a doubt that the Spanish captain of 1583 had made a mistake, the *Alert* was steered towards San Augustino, a volcano known to exist, although improperly set down on the Admiralty charts.

About three hours after leaving the spot indicated as Forfano, San Alessandro was sighted, bearing west about sixty miles, and so in a measure confirming the opinion strongly entertained on the *Alert* that the two were one and the same island. A mistake of six minutes in the Spaniard's time would place Alessandro in the position given to Forfano.

At early dawn on the morning after leaving the neighbourhood of the so-called Forfano Island, the "lookout" reported that land was in sight, nearly ahead, and as the light became more clear San Augustino was observed towering in the air; and by eight a.m. the vessel was nearly alongside. The scenic effect was grand. The island is almost an unbroken cone from the top of the cliffs, which rise perpendicularly from the edge of the water to a height of from fifty to five hundred feet. The tops of the cliffs were lined with trees and bushes, resembling in appearance a belt of green velvet round the mountain, broken here and there with

brown lines, caused by the rush of water from the top. The only things of life on the island were birds; though round its base a number of formidable looking sharks were sporting in the water. The true bearings of the island were ascertained to be latitude  $24^{\circ} 14' N.$  and longitude  $141^{\circ} 28' E.$  Its height is 3,036 feet, and circumference about six miles. On the 6th May twelve soundings were taken at distances ranging from half to three-quarters of a mile from the shore, the depth of water varying from twenty-three to one hundred and eighteen fathoms. Twice the gunboat was within three hundred yards of the shore in deep water.

The *Alert* remained surveying about San Augustino until four o'clock in the afternoon when she started to look for a reef supposed to be in lat.  $22^{\circ} 50' N.$  When in the vicinity of the supposed reef, a deep sea sounding was taken, bottom being found at a depth of 2,227 fathoms, and thus one more danger to navigation may be confidently scratched out of the charts. The *Alert* traversed a distance of two hundred and eighty miles looking for the reef. Her lines were five miles apart and sixty miles long. Deep sea soundings were taken on the even number lines three times and twice on the odd. This is the way search is made for every reported danger, the run being kept up day and night until the little steamer's stock of coal gets short and then she returns to her coaling station at Port Lloyd.

The first reef looked for being undiscoverable, search was made for another said to exist some miles further south. The search proved the non-existence of the reef. Heading west, the *Alert* ran for the island of Euphrosyne, supposed to be in lat.  $21^{\circ} 41' N.$ , long.  $140^{\circ} 41' E.$  and reported to have been seen by two or three whalers. The search resulted in the discovery of nothing. A sounding within a couple of miles of its reputed position showed a depth of water of 2,548 fathoms. Completing a rectangular course around the spot indicated on the charts, a start was made for Port Lloyd as coal was getting short.

On the 14th May, at about 1.30 p.m., discoloured water and breakers were reported from aloft as bearing on the starboard bow and beam. Immediately all was excitement. Could it be the reef they were searching for? Glasses were immediately brought into requisition, and a careful scrutiny showed that the object was not a reef, but a mass of a yellowish brown substance, floating on the top of the water. No breakers were visible. However to make sure, the vessel was headed into it and a sounding of one hundred fathoms taken with no bottom. Some of the yellowish substance was dipped up and bottled. The next day it was discovered that the water in the bottles had turned to a beautiful purple colour, and the substance had commenced to decay, emitting anything but a pleasant odour. And so ended that excitement.

On Sunday morning San Augustino and Sulphur Islands were sighted and passed, and the steamer made for San Alessandro.

Our readers will recollect that during the cruise of the *Alert* last summer a submarine volcano was discovered about three miles N.W. of San Alessandro, throwing up large masses of black mud, ashes and water at irregular intervals. A boat was lowered and soundings taken within a hundred yards of the volcano, showing a depth of only five fathoms. As no mention was made on the charts of a submarine volcano being in that

locality, Commander Huntington came to the conclusion that it was quite of recent origin.

To ascertain how his discovery of last summer was progressing, Commander Huntington ordered the *Alert's* head to be directed towards the spot. On approaching it the water was seen to be perfectly tranquil and no traces of the volcano could be seen. A boat being lowered with sounding apparatus rowed over the spot and discovered a large tract of discoloured water in the form of the edge of a horse-shoe. In colour the water was a dark green in one place, a medium green in another, and a very light green in a third. Soundings were taken in the places where the water varied in colour, but no bottom was found at a depth of twenty-two fathoms. The temperature of the water was  $76^{\circ} F.$ , one degree cooler than the surrounding water; and when tasted no sulphurous component could be detected. A large number of huge sharks were in the vicinity. One, more bold than the rest, followed the boat and rather astonished one of the rowers by taking a slice off the end of his oar.

At half-past five in the evening a final start was made for Port Lloyd, which was reached on the 16th May, after an absence of thirteen days; thirteen days of anxious watchfulness; thirteen nights of painful expectancy, driving along at fair speed in search of dangers unknown but suspected to exist; resulting in the discovery that the islands marked on the map as Forfano and Euphrosyne do not exist; that there are no reefs within the square bounded by  $22^{\circ}$  and  $23^{\circ}$  north latitude and  $140^{\circ}$  and  $143^{\circ}$  east longitude; the determination of the exact position of San Augustino; also, in discovering that where a submarine volcano existed last summer, with only five feet of water above it a hundred yards from the centre, there now remains only an extensive tract of discoloured water with no bottom at twenty-two fathoms. In doing this the *Alert* travelled 1,522 nautical miles. The thermometer was very even, the average temperature being  $79^{\circ} 8' F.$

On the 23rd of May the *Alert* again left Port Lloyd for the purpose of determining the position of Farallone de Pajarda, an active volcano, the most northerly of the Ladrone group, and of this part of the gunboat's cruise we shall, with the kind assistance of her officers, have something to say in a future issue.

#### GRATITUDE TO CHINESE.

In writing yesterday (26th July) of the loss of the American barquentine *Annie S. Hall*, we mentioned that her master, Captain Nelson, and his crew were hospitably cared for by a Mandarin on the Fung-me Island, one of the Taichow Group, and that subsequently Captain Nelson and his men experienced great kindness at the hands of Admiral Shêng Kee-kong and Captain Low Buah while on board the Chinese gunboat *Ohe An*. We are now able to publish the letters of thanks, given by Captain Nelson to these Chinese officials:—

FROM CAPTAIN NELSON AND HIS CREW TO THE  
MANDARIN ON FUNG-ME ISLAND.

Fung-me,  
Taichow Islands.

This will certify that the captain, officers and crew of the American barquentine *Annie S. Hall*, with the exception of Nei Hi-yat, the cook's boy, who was killed by a sea and

washed overboard with the gear of the galley, wish to express their gratitude to those who were kind to them in their misfortune. The ship foundered in a typhoon at 8 a.m. on the 16th ult., myself and crew barely escaping with our lives in our boat about ten minutes before the ship sank, and arrived and landed on this island (Fung-me) about noon on the 16th ult. We were very kindly received by a headman, Ho Sung-kee, who guided and assisted us round to another settlement, where we were furnished with food and dry clothing by the kindness of the officers of the island, and I, my officers and crew, return them our sincere thanks. Here follow the the same signatures as those attached to the letter below.

Sunday, 17th July, 1881.

FROM CAPTAIN NELSON AND HIS CREW TO ADMIRAL  
SHENG-KEE-KONG AND CAPTAIN LEW BUAH.

This is to certify that I, the undersigned Chas. H. Nelson, and officers and crew of the American barquentine *Annie S. Hall*, which foundered on the 16th of July, at 8.10 a.m. during a typhoon, about seven miles E. by N. of the Island of Soudan, landed on the Island of Fung-me, and from there sighted and were taken on board H.I.C.M.'s gunboat *Che An*, Captain Lew Mong-kin, better known as Captain Lew Bua of Amoy, whom we saw passing the above-named islands. We boarded him with our boat and were kindly treated by him and his officers for which we are deeply grateful. As the war-steamer was bound to Wan-chu-foo with H.E. Admiral Sheng-kee-kong on board, we were taken there, and thence to Ningpo, where we could be forwarded by the American Consul of the port to Shanghai. The barquentine *Annie S. Hall* was a vessel of 455 tons register, hailing from Boston, Mass., U.S.A., and sailed on the 1st of July from Newchwang with a cargo of beans for Hongkong.

The names and nationalities of the captain and crew are as follow:—

CHAS. H. NELSON,	Master, American.
CHAS. J. THOMPSON,	First Officer, American.
G. NEILSEN,	Second Officer, Swede.
ANDREW MADERSEN,	Carpenter, Russian Finn.
HUGH M. C. ROBERTS,	A.B., British.
CHAS. MILLER,	A.B., Swede.
FRIEDRICH MULLER,	A.B., German.
MARTIN MOKKELSEN,	A.B., Norwegian.
GEO. PLONSKI,	A.B., German.
FREDERICK LAWSEN,	A.B., Dane.
AH SOO,	Cook, Chinese.

—N.-C. Daily News.

THE American schooner *Otome* has put into Hakodate with a catch of upwards of two thousand two hundred fur seals, and sea otter pelts. This vessel during her cruise fell in with but one other sea otter hunting craft the *Helena* on the 1st June, off the island of Shishkotan: that vessel reported the catch of the other schooners to end of May as follows:—*Helena*, 14 otters; *Alexander*, 5; *Diana*, 3; *M. C. Bohm*, 1; *Otsego*, *Ohede*, and *Adele*, nothing. At this time the *Otome* had 12. The weather had been unfavourable for hunting, and otters were very scarce and wild. On the voyage down the *Otome* experienced fine weather with light W. and S. W. breezes from the Bhering Sea to arrival in port. In the north the season has been tolerably clear, but much fog is reported on the coast of Yezo and neighbouring Kurile Islands.

## Correspondence.

### CONVICT versus FREE LABOUR.

To the editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

SIR:—Permit me to advert to your remarks in your issue of the 30th ultimo relative to the employment of convict labour in the discharge of vessels' cargoes, street watering, and so on, deprecating its use in competition with free labour which you state to be both plentiful and cheap.

Were the facts really so, there would be nothing to say except in support of your protest; but ask anyone practically acquainted with the labour supply of this busy sea port, whose necessities render him dependent on that supply for the dispatch of such vessels as trade here; ask any of the mail companies, the principal employers of such labour, or those who contract for the work of private steamers and sailing vessels, and the reply must be "that for laziness, idle independence, and systematic thievishness the Japanese ship-coolie beats everything."

To convince yourself of the existence of the two former features in his character select any morning you will and visit the English hatoba at about 6 o'clock, and you will find that the principal hirers of coolie labour employ a number of "petty officers" called boatwains, who, acting on the press-gang system, waylay the coolies as they straggle listlessly down to the hatoba in twos and threes and perhaps cajole them with a mouthful of bean soup purchased at one of the numerous peripatetic cookshops around, but either by force or guile plant them in the sampan that is intended to convey them afloat; the sampan wants but one perhaps to make up the complement, the distracted "bo'sun" hunts round after one refractory and captures him only to find that presto!—his sampan is empty and all his work of cajolery has to be gone through again: and so on goes the farce till the coolies who are altogether masters of the situation have had their fun out; and it is perhaps half-past seven or eight o'clock when they consent to be captured and shipped off in triumph to the vessel, where their one end and aim is to "put in" the day and steal all that comes handy, necessitating quite an expensive outlay on the part of their employers in the shape of foreign supervision to compel work and prevent theft.

Now were labour both plentiful and cheap this would soon be altered; the man who did not choose to work could stand back and his fellow, more industrious or necessitous as the case may be, would be engaged and the whole operation of hiring occupy no longer than it takes to speak of it.

Believe me, it is the scarcity and comparative uselessness of the ordinary ship-coolie that have led to the temporary employment of convict labour in connection with ships, and in my opinion a more extensive adoption of such labour, a master's union in fact against theft and laziness, for a time shutting out the regular hatoba loafer and affording (under police supervision) a happy immunity from petty and vexatious thefts, would very speedily reduce the rascals to reason and secure a *quid pro quo* for the daily wages.

A word as to the cheapness of this labour. Would not you Mr. Editor consider a man very well paid indeed whose daily earnings were four times greater than his daily expenditure? Yet as a fact that is about the proportion that a coolie's wages bear to his outlay. Presuming my expenses to be at the moderate computa-

tion of seventy-five dollars monthly, and that I were paid *a la coolie*, I would now be rejoicing in the very comfortable income of \$300 a month.

As an instance of the pettiness of the thefts perpetrated, it was said in Kobe the other day "that coolies had been caught *stealing sand ballast* from a ship"; whether that is true or not I don't know, but I do know that a systematic course of plunder is carried on when the vigilance of those in charge can be eluded and only that escapes which is either "too hot or too heavy" to be easily handled.

Apologising for trespassing at such length on your space,

I enclose my card and am,

Sir, yours obediently,

MARINUS.

Yokohama, August 3.

### ILLICIT COMMISSIONS.

To the editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

DEAR SIR:—In the *London & China Express* of 17th June appears an article on "illicit commissions" in which reference is made to a suit brought some years ago by the Java Sea and Fire Insurance Co. against me to recover what was *alleged* to be an over charge in the commission on a sale of a damaged cargo. The article states:—"The plaintiffs, the Insurance Company, gained the day."

I must trespass on your kindness to give this a most emphatic contradiction. As the records of the court here will show the case was given in my favour in *every respect*; and the remarks made by the Law Secretary were the result of evidence of witnesses called by the plaintiff's counsel to the effect that return commissions were demanded in many instances on sales of damaged goods.

Where the *L. & O. Express* obtained its information that "the plaintiffs gained the day" is a mystery and I think that had the editor of that journal taken ordinary precautions to inquire into the case (the counsel for the plaintiff company being now resident and practising in London) he would not have been betrayed into making such an egregious mis-statement.

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours truly,

F. A. COPE.

Yokohama, 4th August, 1881.

### A FEW WORDS OF WARNING TO SILK DEALERS.

To the editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

SIR:—In these days, when our Japanese friends affect to be puzzled how to protect their simple innocence against the "oppression" and "deceit" of the wily foreigner, it may be well to look back ten years or so to see how matters stood at that time in regard to silk, and I therefore offer you for republication (the whole perhaps unnecessary) the report of the Chamber of Commerce committee of April 18th, 1871, calling attention particularly to articles H, I, *et seq.*, regarding certain practices of our native friends, which still constitute one of the difficulties in dealing with silk.

I have not heard that the Japanese buyers of imported cotton and woollen goods have made any such complaints of foreigners.

Possibly the new silk guild, though it seems to be founded rather on the idea of counteracting foreigners' frauds, than on that of introducing greater honesty into native proceedings,



may, in 1881, accomplish some of the reforms which the silk committee thought so important in 1871. Let us hope so!

Yours truly,  
X.

Yokohama, August 5, 1881.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED AT THE MEETING OF THOSE INTERESTED IN THE SILK TRADE.

Held at the Chamber of Commerce  
on the 14th April, 1871.

At the time we speak of, (ten or twelve years ago) fine silk was very scarce in Europe, owing to the disease with which the silkworms were attacked. The consequence was that Japan silk which would fill up the deficiency in the European crops, was readily bought here and much appreciated in Europe for its good intrinsic qualities.

The produce of almost all the other provinces, such as Musashi, Oshio, Koshio, Yetchizen, Machida, Mino, Tazima and others, was more or less full-sized, say reeled with eight to ten or any greater number of cocoons. So long as this full-sized silk was clean, the foreign manufacturers were quite content to use it, and the Yokohama houses also bought it readily.

After some time the Japanese dealers seeing that fine silk fetched at Yokohama a much higher price in proportion than the coarse kinds, began gradually to reel their silk generally fine, whereby their profits were no doubt much enhanced. But in doing so, and in their ignorance of the purposes for which fine descriptions were wanted in Europe, they lost sight of the various qualities of cocoons they had to work. They thought, no doubt, that provided they could produce a fine thread with three-four, four-five or five-six cocoons, it was all that the European consumers required, and the finer the better, both for themselves and for the foreign buyers.

That was a grievous mistake. Cocoons which were good enough for a thread of ten, twelve or fifteen cocoons, were not well adapted for a thread of three-four or four-five cocoons; they lacked the tenacity, the adhesiveness and the firmness that are required for fine silk, and which we had originally found in the produce of Joshu, Sinshu and Oshio.

One of the causes of the growing deterioration of Japan silk has been the trade in silkworms' eggs, which has been going on for the last five or six years. Large quantities of annual seeds of the best quality having been year after year sold for export, have proportionately reduced the quantity of silk which otherwise would have been reeled off annual cocoons. In order to make up for the deficiency, recourse was had to the bivoltini cocoons, which previously were mostly used to make floss silk, (mawatta) and which, being of an inferior nature, produce only a soft, weak and spongy kind of thread, without adhesiveness, strength, or elasticity, in a word, unfit for the purposes to which fine silk is applied in Europe.

It is astonishing that the Japanese traders did not seem to be aware of the danger they were running into by selling year after year so large a quantity of their best annual seeds for shipment to Europe. The Japan silkworms' eggs materially assisted France, Italy, and other countries in preserving an industry which otherwise would have gone to ruin, but to the detriment of the produce of this Empire. True it is that the foreign seed buyers paid dearly for what they bought, but they succeeded in regenerating their breed of silkworms, and are now enabled to produce again fine silk which drives its Japanese competitor out of the European market.

It is therefore undeniable that whilst the Japanese seed dealers rendered to the foreign silk growers a great service, they at the same time did to themselves all the harm they could.

The European consumers complain not only of Japan hank silk being too fine and wasty, but also of its being now foul, knobby and cased, not only with a coarse and discolored thread but often also with *doppione* (*tama ito*), all of which faults were much less frequent and glaring some ten or twelve years ago, than latterly. The process of cleaning up silk to make it fit for the purposes of the European manufacturers, entails not only expense and loss of time, but also waste and therefore a loss of money upon the consumer. Japan silk having considerably deteriorated from what it was some years ago, the men whose business it is in Europe to prepare the raw material for the dyers and weavers, decline now to work any silk which is in the least degree too fine, uneven, foul and cased.

In consequence, a considerable quantity of the silk which was bought here within the last two or three years has become unsaleable, to the great detriment of the foreign houses of Yokohama; this also explains why the manufacturers, disgusted at finding these faults, gradually abandon the use of Japan silk, and turn in preference to Italian, French, or China silk, &c.

Again, another subject of heavy complaint is, that all sorts of silk, the produce of different provinces or localities, as also of various qualities of cocoons, are put under the same shape of hanks, by which the produce of the two provinces of Joshu and Sinshu only were originally known, and are sold for instance as Joshu silk. The result is that the buyers at Yokohama are often in great doubt as to what kind of silk they are really purchasing. It happens sometimes the Inspector who buys hank silk at Yokohama knows, or is made acquainted with, the place the silk really comes from. But silk shipped from this market to Europe does not always go direct into consumption. It may change hands more than once before it is bought by a manufacturer; the latter, remaining in ignorance of the place of production, may take it to come from Joshu or Sinshu, from the way in which it is made up, and is very often deceived, not only as to the quality, but also as to the result in the dye-pot and the loom. Hence the general discredit into which hank silk has fallen, and which would have been partly avoided if the native reelers had borne in mind that the nature of cocoons from one province or one locality differs from that of another; and according to the nature and quality of silk, so does the result vary in the manufacturer's loom.

It would be considerably to the benefit of both the buyer and the seller if each province of Japan were to adopt a special distinguished mode of making up its produce, so that silk from a certain place would not be confused with that of another.

The same end might be attained, even to a greater extent, in the following way:

The dealers might adopt a certain mark or ticket, called in China "Chop," to be attached to every bundle, by which their silk should be made known and distinguished from that of other dealers. That practice is followed in Italy, France, China, &c., and leads to excellent results.

The dealer who acquires in those countries the reputation of always selling a uniform kind of good silk under his mark or "chop," can at any time dispose of it more readily, and at more remunerative prices than those who sell a silk without a mark or chop. The Chinese dealers adopt now for their "chops" not only their own native characters, but even English characters, so that every facility is given to the foreign buyers for recognizing the article which is offered to them. Such is the repute some of these "chops" have attained, and such is the care taken by the owners to keep up the good quality of their silk, that for a considerable number of years past any quantity of their produce has been, and continues to be, sold, without the least fear of the purchaser being deceived by the sellers.

Any dealer who professes to sell good silk, finds it much to his advantage to adopt a "chop," whereby his produce may be identified, provided he strives to keep up at all times the good quality of his silk. But should he come to sell an inferior or mixed produce under that "chop," or should the quality of the silk in any way deteriorate, he is sure, sooner or later, to lose his reputation and his money.

The above recommendations concern mostly the reelers; the following are more especially for the silk dealers.—

H.—To sort their silk in the country infinitely better than has been done hitherto. Silk offered for sale here is always more or less badly mixed; and every one in our trade knows what loss of time in inspecting is caused by this dishonest practice, both to the native dealer and the foreign buyer.

I.—To adopt, in the future, a mark or chop by which the produce of each dealer or of each locality may be recognized and identified. Silk having been carefully sorted in the country by the dealers, previous to its being brought down here, every bundle of it should have a chop attached to it, written in Japanese and English characters, stating the name of the producer or the dealer, and also province, town or locality it comes from. The qualities No. 1, 2, 3, and 4 should be separated from each other, and have distinctive chops attached to them.

J.—That practice of casing the silk or the bundles, that is, of putting good quality silk outside and inferior inside, to be altogether and for ever discontinued; consequently the whole of the silk offered under a certain mark or "chop" to be of the same nature, quality or size throughout.

K.—The way in which silk is made up is important, and may be varied in all the provinces, provided the following recommendations be strictly attended to:

1st.—Silk should be made up in such a way as to allow the interior to be freely examined. The practice of tying up silk in tight bundles as it used to be formerly in Ida Sinshu, and as it is to this day in Mino, is very much to be reprobated. The buyer cannot inspect the silk thoroughly without cutting up the ties; and whilst anxious not to spoil the appearance of it, he falls into the danger of overlooking the inferior portion with which the seller is tempted to stuff the silk offered for sale.

The best way to make up silk is that which enables the buyer to inspect it thoroughly, without in the least injuring its appearance. Against making up in hanks, or in loose bundles, as in Joshu, Sinshu, Oshio, Yetchizen, and elsewhere, no objection can be raised. The way in which Tazima silk is made up, would be the best of all, as it is the nearest approximation to the Italian and French fashions; but in that case, no paper ties of any kind ought to be put inside the skeins; one "chop" alone to each bundle would be sufficient.

2nd.—The tare or strings ought to be uniform in weight, size, and nature, throughout Japan; hitherto they have been a universal source of complaint and dissatisfaction. They are not only dissimilar in size, weight, and nature, from province to province, town to town, and locality to locality, but they even vary from bale to bale, and bundle to bundle; so that it may be truly said that they were merely introduced by the native traders with a view to deceive and defraud the buyers. It is perfectly well known that, with the exception of strings, the papers with which hank silks are tied up, are of no use whatever; they ought therefore to be completely dispensed with, and the strings reduced to a uniform size, say that of the strings (*mottoi*) with which the queues of the natives are bound up. That being universally known and accepted, all disputes and complaints would cease in the future.

Repeated attempts have been made by the Chamber of Commerce of Yokohama, as well as by private firms, to alter and ameliorate the production of silk in Japan; but if we except the introduction in the country of an insignificant piece of reeling machinery, no progress has been made hitherto, and our exhortations have been fruitless. On the contrary, the reeling has been more and more careless, and the quality of the silk produced has yearly become worse and worse.

The silk buyers of Yokohama, in public meeting assembled, have resolved on making one more effort to draw the serious attention of the native reelers and traders to the absolute necessity of mending their ways. They warn them that unless the above recommendations are earnestly carried into effect, the markets of Europe will soon be shut against them; less and less Japan silk will be shipped to foreign parts, and that trade which ought to be a source of profit and wealth to the Japanese as well as to the foreigners, will gradually come to ruin and extinction.

J. M. JAQUEMOT,  
F. SCHRIDT,  
F. W. A. WHITE,  
C. BARTHE,  
JOSHUA LE MARÉ, } Committee.

MR. J. J. VAN DER POT, Minister Resident in Japan for his Majesty the King of the Netherlands, was received in audience by his Majesty the Mikado on Tuesday last, when the newly-appointed minister presented his letters of credence.

Subsequently, Mr. van der Pot had the honour to present to the Mikado the Chevalier Ranselaar de Bovier, captain of H. N. M. S. *Konigin Emma der Nederlanden*.

## Occasional Notes.

We were informed yesterday that a quantity of about twenty tons of gunpowder had been laden on board the M. B. S. S. *Wakanoura Maru*; and that vessel, with this dangerous cargo, was permitted to lie in the harbour close under the stern of the O. & O. S. S. *Belgic*. The *Wakanoura Maru* left last night for Kobe.

This seemed a matter of so much importance that an application to ascertain the truth of the report was made at 10 a.m. yesterday, in the following terms:—

"Japan Gazette" July 25th, 1881.

To the Agent

MITSU BISHI STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

DEAR SIR:—We have been requested to give publicity to a complaint to the effect that a quantity of about twenty tons of gunpowder has been put on board the *Wakanoura Maru*, one of the company's vessels; and that that vessel is lying among the shipping, close astern of the O. & O. S. S. *Belgic*.

As this is a matter of considerable public importance, we shall be much obliged if you will favour us with authority to deny the truth of the report, or with such explanation of the circumstances as you consider necessary.

The pressing urgency of the case will excuse us for asking for an early reply.

No reply having been received we feel compelled to give publicity to the story as it was conveyed to us, in the hope that the Board of Consuls, who have had experience of the zeal displayed by the native authorities in regard to the storage of kerosene, will take steps to ascertain the truth and to make regulations to protect the settlement from a danger of great magnitude when the careless habits of Japanese are taken into consideration.

The explosion on board the *Lottie Sleigh* in the river Mersey did immense damage to the town and shipping, the effects being felt five miles away. The quantity of powder on board was not more than eleven tons; and it is not too much to say that the explosion of double that quantity half a mile from this settlement would not leave a house standing.

An inquiry is certainly necessary; more especially as the Company concerned has neglected to reply to a reasonable request for information.

MANY of our readers will be interested in learning that the new Chinese loan has been allotted at an average rate of  $3\frac{3}{4}$  per cent. premium; a fact which, while affording evidence of improved credit on the part of the Chinese government, still secures to the investors the excellent return of 7.71 per cent. per annum.

Comparing the price of allotment of the fourth loan with the three earlier loans, the appreciation in credit is apparent. Thus, the 1874 sterling 8 per cent. loan was issued at £95; the 1877 sterling 8 per cent. loan at £98; the 1878 8 per cent. silver loan at par; and the 1881 8 per cent. silver loan at  $3\frac{3}{4}$  per cent. premium.

Another and interesting feature of this loan is the great number of applications for allotment made by Chinese in Hongkong and Shanghai. At a later date we hope to give fuller particulars.

Much surprise is evinced by the Japanese, first, at the necessity which induces a wealthy country like China to borrow a trifling sum of £1,000,000; and, second, that 8 per cent. interest should be paid. We confess to sharing, to some degree, our friends' surprise,

which is increased by the eagerness with which the Chinese themselves have applied for investment in a state loan at a rate so much below the current value of money in commercial native circles in China.

THE perpetrators of the murder at the tea-house known as Ishiwara, opposite the Cliff dairy, are said to have been captured by the police yesterday. If this is the case, greater energy and acumen have been displayed by these officials than is usually the case.

The three men accused of the murder are said to have confessed their guilt.

In this morning's *Japan Mail* appears a paragraph purporting to be taken from the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun*, which we reproduce in a condensed form. Some time ago a teacher was wanted in some branch of literature, and it was decided to engage a foreigner. The leading foreign tutor of the seminary, which is not attached to the department of public works, requested that a friend of his who was in Italy, should be engaged as he was respected for his knowledge and personal qualities. The minister of the department agreed to pay this friend a monthly salary of two hundred and seventy yen. After a time the tutor informed the minister that his friend had accepted the situation, and in consequence one thousand yen was paid by the department for the new teacher's travelling expenses. This person arrived and was engaged for three years, but soon the students complained of his incapacity, and on being examined he confessed that he only received seventy yen per month. Upon inquiries being made it was discovered that this person was only "an ignorant old foreigner" from Yokohama. In fact, it came out that the head teacher had appropriated the thousand yen and also two hundred yen out of the monthly salary. Great trouble ensued, but the affair was passed over as the head master had been employed for several years. But the most astonishing part of this tale remains to be told. Not only, says the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun*, was the master not dismissed, as he ought to have been, but he is now in receipt of an addition of seventy yen monthly over and above his original salary, while the new teacher receives two hundred yen.

The possibility that this story, improbable though it seems, may have some foundation in truth, is a circumstance which calls for strict public investigation; for so long as the name of the offender is concealed under the general designation of foreigner, a slur is cast upon every foreign professor and instructor in the service of the Japanese. Such actions are not uncommon in this country; but this is the first time a foreigner has been involved in an act which is little short of a felony and one which certainly richly deserves exposure and punishment.

MR. GILBERT's prize for shooting at 500 yards was competed for yesterday, by the members of the Yokohama Rifle Association. Mr. Guissani proved the winner, with the excellent score of 45 out of a possible 50 points. The others who made a good fight for it were:—

Mr. Dare	43 points.
" Favre Brandt	42 "
" Cameron	39 "
" Bland	34 "

THE *Chiugai Bukka Shinpo* alludes to the combination of native silk dealers to establish

a guild to control all sales of silk to foreign merchants and otherwise interfere with the most profitable trade ever conducted by the people of this country. It also says that certain foreign merchants consider this action antagonistic to their interests and improper, and that they have memorialised the foreign ministers to interfere with a view to the suppression of the association. That journal regards the action of foreigners as extremely foolish, and prefers to consider the report groundless, because the combination being a private undertaking the government cannot interfere with it.

We know little about the proceedings of foreign merchants in this matter, except that whatever their action is it has been pronounced premature by a leading authority on mercantile affairs, the *Japan Mail*; but we may offer a few opinions of our own upon the manner in which a certain section of Japanese carry on their business. The Japanese people who come into contact with foreigners are chiefly middlemen or brokers (*saitori*) who dispose of the products of the people at a large profit to themselves, and purchase the imported goods consumers require also at an immense profit to themselves. The majority of these people are tricksters. They hold that commerce is a trick; and that success depends upon the possession of the necessary degree of superior cunning to outwit the persons with whom they deal. The average silk seller never deals honestly with the foreign purchaser. If a parcel of silk is required a muster is produced as the basis of the quality agreed upon; but the parcel sent in for inspection is invariably vastly inferior, and the purchaser is compelled to reject a large quantity as wholly unsuited to his requirements, and being, in fact, a class of silk he can do nothing with. If the market price is improving the rejection is matter of indifference to the seller: delay is nothing to him, and of labour of inspection he has none. If, on the other hand, the market price should decline while the silk is being examined, here is a fine opportunity for an outcry against a foreign merchant who has taken the silk of the honest and simple Japanese, kept it while the market was declining, and then thrown it back on the seller's hands. In these outcries we never hear any allusion to the trick of trying to palm off upon the foreigner an inferior parcel of silk to that he had agreed to take. We never by any chance hear the other side. This practice has been carried on for years, and most of the rejections we hear so much about arise somewhat in the following manner:—A foreign merchant makes a purchase of silk on a sample bale or bales; if the market appears weak, or likely to decline, the vendor delivers silk nearly approaching the sample selected; or if, on examination, any inferiority is manifested, an exchange is made for better silk or a lower price is accepted. But when the market is active, or any sudden advance takes place, which in these days of telegrams is frequent enough, the buyer may be perfectly certain that the sample bale on which he based his purchase was picked, and that the bulk will be vastly inferior. This is a favourite trick. The buyer must then either lose his market altogether, or take an inferior silk at a higher price to what he intended when making the purchase.

Does it ever occur to the Japanese merchant that honesty is its own reward? We think not; for the time wasted in unsuccessful trickery is of far greater value than the illegitimate gain occasionally made out of an unsuspecting foreign victim.

CONSIDER our friends, the Japanese traders, in all their bearings. Regard the typical Japanese *banto*, or under clerk, who passes under the name of "merchant," and say what you think of him. He has two distinguishing characteristics—unscrupulous cunning, and over-weening conceit. Accustomed to measure all men by his own standard of commercial immorality, he is always threading the devious ways and paths of trickery. His education is almost always limited to the elements of reading and writing; but he is, by instinct, an adept at simple calculations on the *soroban*. His social status is of the lowest. Intercourse of any kind with him beyond selling and buying is impossible. His idea of commerce is to make money by the exercise of the art of chicane, and in this he generally succeeds. There is no responsible head to a Japanese mercantile firm; no chief upon whom to fall back in event of complaint against the underling. Tatsunosuke is a respectable merchant with whom everything is properly conducted until the proper moment arrives to spoil those sons of Satan, the foreigners. The aggrieved foreign merchant, whose confidence has been grossly violated, seeks the head of the establishment to obtain redress, but Mr. Tatsunosuke, with whom he fondly thought he had been personally dealing, turns out to be merely a *banto*; and, strange coincidence, a near relative of the real Mr. Tatsunosuke died suddenly, and the honourable chief of the firm has been compelled to retire to the country for three months.

THESE peculiarities have of late attracted a little more than usual attention, for during the past two years the attitude of the gang of brokers who enjoy the monopoly of sole intercourse with foreign merchants, has been insolently dictatorial, unjust and oppressive.

SOME of these comments will perhaps take a few of our Japanese readers by surprise. We hope so. The unvarnished truth is never very palatable; but its utterance not unseldom does more good than harm.

THE last mail steamer to America carried away from among us Mr. R. T. Rennie, judge of H. B. M. Court for Japan. He is the first judge who has occupied the bench since the transformation, under the order in council for 1878, of the British court at this port from a subdivision of the supreme court for China and Japan to an independent court, styled H. B. M. Court for Japan.

In former years not only British subjects, but all suitors seeking protection under British law, have on more than one occasion experienced the advantage of the administration of the law by trained lawyers, notably Mr. Hannen and the late lamented Mr. Goodwin; and being therefore well able to appreciate the superiority of law, pure and simple, as compared with that curious excrecence of the administration of justice known as consular law, all residents hailed with much satisfaction the advent of Mr. Rennie in January 1879. This feeling was fully justified by the new judge's nineteen years standing at the English bar, and the extensive practice he had so successfully carried on for many years at Shanghai; and the expectations then formed have been fully realized; for during a sojourn of over two years at this port he has administered the law with the utmost impartiality, and with that peculiar readiness which years of arduous private practice alone can give.

To many of the uninitiated it will perhaps have seemed that the duties of a British judge in a place like this are comparatively light, but being in a position to state that Mr. Rennie very largely availed himself of his discretionary powers, under the order in council of 1865, to promote reconciliation, and encourage and facilitate the settlement in an amicable way of any suit or proceeding pending before him, and has on numerous occasions undertaken the delicate duties of arbitrator, it will be readily seen that the general public are not in a position to form a very accurate opinion of the amount of work transacted in H.B.M. Court for Japan.

In wishing Mr. Rennie a pleasant trip home and a safe return, we do but express the feelings of regard and esteem entertained for him by all who have known him either in his judicial capacity or as a private individual.

MR. E. H. HOUSE, in his letter to the *Pall Mall Gazette*, alludes to the notification issued by the British minister in 1869 to the effect that all coal shipped on board steamers should be regarded as for ship's use and be exempt from duty, and adds,—“From that time the duty has been withheld, and the revenues of the empire have suffered to the extent of scores of thousands of pounds.” This notification is referred to in even stronger terms in the *Atlantic Monthly*, wherein it is stated that the evasion of duty on coal by English traders had resulted in a loss of “hundreds of thousands of dollars to the Japanese treasury.”

It is desirable there should be no exaggeration of the loss to the treasury from this notification. The customs returns show that the quantity of coal exported in steamers free of duty for the four years ending June 30th, 1880, was 397,696 tons, on which the duty, had it been payable, would have been \$85,902. Prior to 1877 the shipments were not on so large a scale, and it is exceedingly doubtful whether the quantity for the preceding seven years, exported in steamers, exceeded that for the succeeding four years. On the most liberal allowance, that is, taking the mean export of the four years as the measure of the preceding seven, the gross duty from 1870 to 1880 inclusive, would amount to \$236,227, or £57,255. These figures are the best corrective of the random assertions in regard to “scores of thousands of pounds,” and “hundreds of thousands of dollars.”

Another point in connection with this coal question is this:—That during the past seven years the chief collieries have been worked solely on government or native account, and as coal mining is an industry to be encouraged the remission of duty has helped considerably to enable Japanese coal, which costs a very high figure at the pit's mouth, to compete with Australian and other imported coal in China. Again, while Mr. House raves about the loss the treasury sustains consequent upon the “evasion by English traders” of the export duty on coal, imported coal, to compete in Japan with the native product, is admitted *duty free*.

THE resolution of the government to refuse to the people the right of trial by jury, logically treated, amounts to this. Japan, with its teeming population of thirty-five millions, contains only twelve men competent to act as jurors, and those twelve, being the sole members of the supreme government, are precluded from serving in that capacity. The extraordinary part of this is the coincidence which led the people to select as their rulers the only twelve men in the country fit for the

post. By a most fortunate and happy unanimity the public choice fell upon the only competent persons; and it has remained for the twelve to declare that, although it is essentially necessary for this nation to have jurisdiction over the lives and property of foreigners, the rest of the people of Japan are so uneducated as to be unfitted to perform the functions of jurymen.

When the progress of Japan is lauded in foreign countries the fact will appear that whereas only ten per cent. of the population are unable to read and write, and the results of higher education are said to be most marked, the middle class of the empire is too ignorant to furnish men fit to act as jurors. This is the fiat of the government.

AN old resident of this place furnishes the following anecdote:—“Some few years ago I was prevailed upon to lend a rather large sum of money upon the bond of the borrower and four sureties. Of the respectability and substance of the parties I was fully assured on inquiries, which were closely pressed. On the due date the borrower failed to meet his engagement and recourse was had to the sureties. Since that experience I have been impressed with the awful uncertainty of human affairs, for in three short months, of these prosperous men of business one was dead, another was in prison, a third was bankrupt, and the friends of the fourth were mourning over his untimely disappearance and the poverty in which they were plunged in consequence. For investments I now prefer Turkish bonds, or Costa Rica 50 per cent. state guaranteed securities.”

THE rental paid by foreigners for the land leased in perpetuity from the Japanese government has for some years been regarded as excessively high, and far beyond the assessment on any other lands in the empire. A contemporary journal now refers to the question as one for the consideration of the parties to the revised treaties; adding that a clause should be inserted reducing the present rent by at least one-half.

With all deference to the opinions of others we have little hesitation in saying that the matter is not one for diplomatic interference. The title to lands granted to foreigners by the government is a contract the terms of which cannot be varied by any act of the grantor or grantee except by their common consent. If the foreign representatives have any power to influence the government in this matter, urging a reduction of rent on the ground that foreign commercial relations with this country are not so satisfactory as anticipated when the conditions for the sale of land were accepted, it is reasonable to suppose that in more prosperous times the government would be equally justified in claiming an increase. Under such circumstances the value of land would be liable to repeated fluctuation; while a contract of a character usually considered irrevocable and invariably will become little better than waste paper. Reduction of the rent is one thing; but we venture to assert that its increase by arrangement between the government and the foreign ministers could not be enforced against the holder of the title deed in an English court of law.

The view that should be taken of the ground rent question involves several important considerations. In the first place there are few countries in the world where aliens are permitted to hold land as real estate. Here the title deed imposes certain conditions the observance of which secures the specified land



to the grantee, his heirs and assigns, for ever. This alienation of Japanese soil was an error; nothing beyond a leasehold should have been granted; and to remedy the mistake the government would, no doubt, be only too happy to cancel all existing titles, make compensation to the holders, and grant leases of land in or near the settlements on very easy terms. The position of the government, *vis à vis* foreign landowners, is peculiar; and few will have any other opinion than that nothing can be expected from the former except by way of concession.

An acre of land in the settlement entails a rent charge of \$338.56, which includes all municipal taxes for roads, police, drainage, and other requirements, lighting only excepted. The value of the land for building purposes may be taken at from \$5 to \$30 per tsubo; and perhaps \$15 is not an excessive mean. An acre of ground with suitable buildings upon it, would command a rental here of at least \$4,000; and these data afford facilities for a comparison of our ground rent with that payable in Shanghai plus municipal charges; thus in Shanghai:—

Government ground rent 6 taels=	\$ 8.22
$\frac{1}{2}$ % on assessed value of land	72.60
$\frac{1}{8}$ % on assessed rental of \$4,000	320.00
	400.82
Payable in Yokohama	338.56
Difference in favour of Yokohama	\$ 62.26

On the bluff the conditions are somewhat different. The rental of 145.20, or yen 239.58, per acre is excessive; and if proper representations were made to the government it is more than probable some consideration would be accorded to the memorial, for the land tax payable by Japanese subjects for the same quantity of arable ground does not exceed six yen, and including local government taxation, certainly not more than ten yen. Foreigners therefore, for their little holdings of gardens and lawns, pay about twenty-four times more annual rental than the Japanese themselves.

Whatever seems advisable to be done in this matter should be carried out on the principle that if the government are disposed to consider favourably the memorial of the land renters on the bluff some reduction may be made; but to proceed on any assumption of right to demand that the stipulations of agreements in writing should be varied because one of the parties finds the contract less remunerative than he anticipated, is a manifest absurdity.

The *Daily Press* of Hongkong advocating the expediency of introducing the silver yen into China, refers to a passage in a speech made by Mr. Jackson at a meeting of the Hongkong chamber of commerce, held some months ago to consider the advisability of adopting the yen as a legal tender in that colony. Mr. Jackson said:—"It is only a few years since Japan was opened, and before that not a single ounce of silver was imported into the country. Well, how comes it that during the last twelve years a hundred millions dollars' worth of silver coins have been exported from Japan?" In this statement Mr. Jackson was not quite accurate. For the first few years of our trade intercourse with Japan foreigners paid for exports (which were far in excess of imports), land, houses, and expenses incurred by army and navy stationed in Japan, a very large sum of money, exports alone being \$25,000,000 in excess of imports. This money, with government and private hoards, has, in large part, being exchanged into paper and exported for state requirements. There is not,

unfortunately, the slightest ground for assuming that the country must have been originally very rich in silver, and that the quantity exported is only a small portion of the whole amount possessed. Confidence in paper currency, or indifference to the consequences of its issue, induced people to part with the reality for the valueless symbol; and the requirements of government for money for export have drained nearly all the silver and substituted paper as currency. Hence the present financial difficulty, which affords clear evidence that as Japan is suffering seriously from want of specie, her own credit being depreciated to a large and ever declining extent, no silver coin can be supplied to other nations unless the silver be first sent to Japan; the cost of doing which, the mintage fees paid there, and the return transport of the minted coin being charged to the owner of the silver. Freight and insurance to and from Japan, and one per cent. mintage fee, must be the charges upon silver yen.

The question, as our contemporary puts it, is one entirely of profit or loss. Japan is not, in any sense, a silver producing country; the mint is not founded as a public convenience, or to facilitate trade; it is not like the English mint which receives gold and returns coins, containing the exact weight of gold received, free of charge; but it is intended to be a source of revenue; that is, the cost of working it has to be defrayed, and a surplus carried to the credit of the exchequer. How long Japan will be willing to purchase silver, coin it into yen, and issue it to the public at her own expense, is a question which depends entirely upon the ability of the nation to bear the cost of coining the quantity that would be required if yen were accepted in China. Whether the public will send in silver to the Japan mint depends entirely upon the principle which regulates or checks the selling price of an article by the cost of its production and carriage to a market.

A RECENT number of the *Annales de l'Extrême Orient* contains two articles of more than usual interest to residents in Japan.

The first deals with the privilege of extra-territoriality in China and Japan. The writer says that the governments of these two countries have recently communicated to the powers of Europe memoranda on the subject of the extra-territorial clauses of the treaties, and the privileges enjoyed under them by foreign residents, which show the ability with which people of the Mongol race know how to turn against Westerns the general principles of the equity and justice of their civilization, but which, on the other hand, do not so clearly demonstrate their own disinterested desire to pursue the application of these principles. Japan insists above all on the necessity for the complete abrogation of the extra-territorial clauses of the treaties. Notwithstanding that diplomatists were quite right in insisting that their countrymen should not be subject to obscure and badly-defined laws, to a magistracy venal or ignorant, and to processes which borrowed their chief efficacy from the use of torture, yet it cannot be denied that this régime can hardly be regarded as consistent with the principles of international right among independent nations. The Japanese, the writer continues, have cleverly made use of their inconsistency to press for solution of the difficulty more in conformity with their own interests and *amour-propre*. The independence enjoyed by foreigners in Japan in matters of police and administration is, they say, at the bottom of all the quarrels which have been raised; and the Mikado's ministers claim the

recognition of the complete executive authority of the government in all circumstances, and the recognition of the legislative, executive, and judicial authority of the government in every thing connected with the public administration; in a word, they desire that the government of the country, and all those residing in it, be given up to them; and they support their demand by referring to that axiom of the law of nations which states that jurisdiction resides in the sovereign authority of a country. The Japanese government have long been preparing for this demand, and, fearing that the incompatibility of the old laws of the country with the principles of our civilization might be employed as an argument against them, they have employed a distinguished French legist to adopt the Japanese manners to the Code Napoleon. The mere placing of a code, more or less perfect, in the hand of a man will hardly make him a judge; but for the moment it seems the Japanese do not ask for absolute practical jurisdiction over foreigners; they desire to conclude a treaty conceding conditionally jurisdiction in certain particular instances, and they even make a merit of their moderation in this respect.

The Chinese government, without disputing the right of consuls to jurisdiction over their countrymen, complain that foreigners regard the concession of extra-territoriality as not only exempting them from the control of the Chinese authorities, but as allowing them to violate with impunity the laws of China. This is also, one can easily see, a demand for the recognition of the absolute authority of the Chinese government in all matters, but especially in relation to police and administration. To these demands and arguments it may be replied that the introduction into the extreme East of the general principles of the law of nations which govern European powers has been of a date too recent to constitute a serious guaranty; and that the local authorities have not yet shown that they sufficiently comprehend the spirit of this law, to warrant European nations committing to their care the property and interests of their subjects. For example, the writer from whom we are quoting adds, we might say to the Japanese government that Europeans cannot admit their absolute competence in matters of administration, when we find the result of their financial reforms for twelve years to be the creation of a crisis which paralyzes trade, by inundating the country with paper money, which can only be sold for silver in the proportion of 275 to 137. If we ask in China, what are the laws which they complain are broken with impunity by foreigners, the reply is that, for example, if the Chinese law prohibits passage through a certain way, foreigners, by virtue of the privilege of extra-territoriality, can claim the right to pass there. One would hardly be inclined to treat matters put forward like this seriously, were it not that they reveal the secret wish of the Japanese and Chinese, namely, the subsequent and complete expulsion of Europeans from amongst them. There is only one reply to be made. If in Europe governments mutually consent that each shall exercise over strangers established in its territory the same rights that it exercises over its own subjects, it is because, independently of general community in the principles of civilization, they also grant the same advantages. Equality of rights implies equality of obligations. But Japan and China restrict the right of residence of foreigners in their territories to a few ports scattered on their coasts. If they give us the right to reside and trade everywhere, to travel without restriction, in fact, the same rights as their own subjects, then their complaints and demand might

be considered. But, in maintaining against us a prohibitive and exceptional system, which does not support their pretended desire for international concert, they authorize us to use similar means for preserving a privileged situation which, up to the present, has been the sole guarantee of our rights. But in order to use this language with authority, it is necessary that the governments of the treaty powers should show a spirit of equity and disinterestedness, as well as an accord which, unhappily, is far from existing. If civilized nations wish to convert the Chinese and Japanese, they should begin by being of one mind amongst themselves to the doctrines which they want to teach, and they should above all practice conscientiously those principles of international law of which they demand the application.

THE second article deals with the new Japanese codes. We shall give the substance in the same manner as we have done above, abstaining at present from making any comments of our own. After a eulogy on M. Boissonade, which we are sure is well-deserved, the writer explains the manner in which these codes have been drawn up. Far from imitating the other foreigners in the Japanese service, he says, M. Boissonade did not wish to make innovations without taking into account the wants of the nation, but contented himself with improving what he found there. On his arrival in Tokio, he procured before commencing his work a translation of all the then existing laws, and of some old texts of Japanese jurisprudence, and it was only after having acquired an exact conception of the customs, aspirations, and wants of the Japanese that he commenced the work of framing the new codes. Unfortunately, however, his labours were subjected to the examination of a commission composed of members little acquainted with legislation, and these, under the pretext of making the laws coincide with the customs of the country, cut down here and added there without inquiring whether these new clauses accorded with those which followed or those which went before. Thanks to these alterations, many of them absurd and useless, M. Boissonade's work is far from possessing the worth which it did when it first left his hands. It is admitted that it is necessary to make the laws coincide with the customs of the country, but where a country advances so rapidly as Japan, one should regard the future. It is indispensable that, while agreeing with established usages, a code should be as permanent as possible, and that, although not unvariable, it should be subjected to only rare alterations. The issue of the present codes, however, will hold an important place in the annals of Japanese legislation, and they will doubtless form the bases for all future legislation.

The writer then sketches a brief history of former Japanese codes; for of legislation properly so called there has hitherto been none. The first laws, to the number of seventeen, of which we have a trace, date from the time of Suiko Tenno; a more complete code was issued under Tenji Tenno (662-671), but the first real work of the kind was made in 680, nine years after the accession of Tenmu Tenno. This code was only an imitation, or more properly a translation, of the Chinese laws of the Tso dynasty. This is known as the *Taiho Ritsuri*. The laws in operation during the Tokugawa rule were issued by Iyemitsu in 1625, and revised and modified in 1740 and 1790. In 1870 a new, and in 1873 a revised code were promulgated. The present penal code is then described; but as we probably shall deal with this on another occasion in detail, we may pass over this part of the paper. The

writer concludes with the very proper observation that the chief difficulty now will be to obtain magistrates capable of applying the new laws with intelligence.

PUBLIC estimation of the investment recently offered by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, in the form of a fourth loan to the Chinese government, was shown by applications for about fifteen and a half millions of taels, or nearly four times the sum offered for subscription. The rate of successful tenders ruled from  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. to  $6\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. premium; and about 75 per cent. of the whole sum was allotted to Hongkong applicants. Yokohama was not behind hand in tenders, a sum of somewhere about 300,000 taels having been applied for; but from want of speculation, or from other causes, the premium offered was too low to secure any allotment.

The account of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation for this half-year should yield a most satisfactory result; and that this will be the case is shown by the premium to which the shares have risen, 115 to 116 per cent. being the rates ruling in Shanghai and Hongkong.

WITH the publication of Sir Harry Parkes's second letter to *The Times*, the correspondence on "English agents in Japan" ceases so far as the columns of that influential journal are concerned, this resolution being appended as a foot note to the letter which we reprinted this morning.

Much difference of opinion was noticeable here with respect to the propriety of the first letter written by Sir Harry Parkes. The categorical denial of the House-Griffis-Reed charges was dignified and peremptory, and so far satisfactory; but there, in the judgment of the best men of our settlement, the minister should have stopped. No servant of the state can ever enter the arena of public discussion and explain or excuse acts which have been performed for and in the name of the government he serves, without loss of dignity. Sir Harry Parkes has, for some years now, maintained a silent reserve admirable under any circumstances, but doubly so under the gross libels and malignant personal invective with which he has been assailed by hired slanderers of the House class. To break through that reserve for one single instance, and for a public purpose, was justifiable; but further notice of his accusers is an honour done them of which they are totally unworthy.

THE *Hochi Shinbun* gives currency to a rumour of a peculiar character. It is to the effect that during his Majesty the Mikado's sojourn in Senju Yeki H. E. Sanjo, prime minister, and H.E. Terashima, ex-minister of education and formerly minister of foreign affairs, made successful application to the Mikado for permission to "take over" the manufactories and buildings of the colonization department, for a sum of 300,000 yen, payable by instalments without interest. These manufactories are said to have cost the department 3,000,000 yen, or ten times the amount at which they are sold to two members of the supreme council of state.

The secretaries of the department, which is to be abolished, will now, in the metaphor of our contemporary, "swim out of official waters into the more profitable sea of business speculation."

A list of these undertakings which have cost the nation so much money, may be useful. It is taken from the finance report for the fiscal year 1880-81, and the figures appended to each show the estimated profit in yen annually

derived from them while under control of the Kaitakushi. Watermill-machinery factory, 556; Saw mills, 502; Iron works, 1,494; Casting works, 560; Flour mill, 151; Machine shops, 280; Steam machine works, 139; Brewery, 3,076; Wine presses, 136; Ishikari and Mimi canning works, 5,265; Cod liver oil works, 132; Match works, 84; Telegraphs, 1,897; Sea otter hunting, 7,524; Fish manure works, 369; Sea weed works, 99; Hawomai canning works, 341; Shano canning works, 237; At-keshi canning works, 153; Nemuro saw mills, 902; in all twenty-one establishments returning 24,297 yen.

THE abolition of the Kaitakushi will be an extraordinary relief to the poor people of Yezo, around whose necks the taxes and imposts levied by this institution have hung like huge mill stones, destroying every spark of energy and driving the industrious to desperation. If the imprecations which have been breathed at the colonization administration during the past five years, at the Kogio-sho-kwai, and other kindred off shoots of the parental stem, could have been collected into one blast, the department and every body connected with it would have been scattered to the winds years ago. Its death will be an event to be celebrated with general rejoicing; but in the midst of all we must remember the fable of King Log and King Stork. How can ministers of state be manufacturers and not employ their official privileges to benefit themselves, and perhaps rivet still closer the fetters of that monopoly which bids fair to irrevocably ruin the hardy and frugal toilers of the coast and seas of northern Yezo.

SOME misapprehension appears to prevail in regard to the return of the certificate of Captain Thompson of the *Ella Beatrice*; and an impression also exists that our announcement of that fact was premature. It will be remembered that we relied entirely upon a passage contained in a letter from the owners of the late barque to Captain Thompson, to the following effect:—"Mrs. Thompson has received notice from the Board of Trade that your certificate will be returned to you on application for the same at Aberdeen. Congratulating you on the above, &c."

The master of the *Ella Beatrice* is said to have lost his certificate at Hakodate before the loss of his vessel, and that he, of course, immediately applied for another; it is therefore assumed that the return of the certificate has reference to the accidental loss rather than to a reversal of the decree of the naval court. This may be so; but there are many circumstances opposing this conclusion. The Merchant Shipping Amendment Act, 1862, sec. 23 (3) provides that if a naval court suspends a certificate that certificate shall be forwarded to the Board of Trade with the report. Sec. 24 provides for the delivery of the certificate to the naval court. Under these circumstances the certificate to replace that lost would have been withheld by the Board of Trade, who were in possession of the report of the naval court, or should have been, at the same time as the petition of appeal arrived, namely, about the 3rd of May. A copy of the petition of appeal was forwarded to the owners of the vessel, who being thus in full possession of the facts would scarcely have written, about eighteen days afterwards, to congratulate Captain Thompson on the restoration of a certificate which had been inadvertently mislaid. If again, the certificate had been mislaid in Hakodate before the accident to the vessel, the loss must have been discovered in December or January last; and as immediate ap-

plication was made the Board of Trade must have allowed some three months to elapse before furnishing a new certificate, an unusual delay. However, a short time should resolve all doubts.

Last night or early this morning an attempt was made to enter the premises occupied by Messrs. Bourne & Co. at No. 70 Main-street, and it would probably have been successful had the padlock with which the front door was fastened not been so strong. The thieves seem to have made the attempt in a most deliberate and daring manner, the door being under the full light of a gas lamp, and in the most frequented street, both by day and by night, of the settlement. If the policeman on duty had been in his proper station such an attempt would certainly have been impossible, the state of the lock showing that the thieves must have been engaged sometime before they gave it up. The amount of confidence which can be placed upon a native watchman is shown by the fact that the one on duty heard no noise whatever, being probably asleep at the time. The attempt was only discovered this morning when an assistant of Messrs. Bourne & Co. tried to insert the key into the padlock, and it was only after a great deal of trouble that a locksmith was able to open it.

A SHORT time ago we made an appeal for assistance to provide shelter for the children of tea-firing women during the time the latter are employed in the godowns. A lady whose disinterested exertions had previously organised one school where the elder children could receive some instruction, and a room where the younger could be taken care of and fed, has, as mentioned before, expressed her intention to extend these arrangements to make them applicable to the tea-firing godowns generally throughout the settlement. To carry this plan into execution a small fund is required; and we expressed our willingness to receive subscriptions and hand them to the lady who has been good enough to charge herself with the chief labour of applying the money in the manner calculated to do most good. Many expressions of approval and sympathy reached us when this suggestion first appeared, but unfortunately substantial assistance has not been forthcoming.

The cause is so praiseworthy, the motive so disinterested, that we are loath to believe the community unwilling to support it, and we therefore again remind all those charitably disposed that we shall be happy to receive any amount, however small, contributed to the fund for providing shelter for infants whom peculiar circumstances throw houseless upon our streets.

We have heard that the action against H.B.M. ship *Lapwing*, brought by the China Merchants Steamship Company, has resulted in a verdict for the defendant; the same result attending the cross action. Each party to bear their own costs.

A CONTEMPORARY most justly denounces the reported sale of the property of the Kaitakushi, adding that the ruling officials who profit by such transactions may well unite to resist a parliamentary system which would render it impossible for acts such as these to pass without strict inquiry. We have at frequent intervals complained of the acts of the Kaitakushi, and of the administration of the government of that part of the empire. The

hard working sea-weed gatherers and fishermen have always been compelled to deliver up to the Kaitakushi a certain large proportion of their property as dues in kind to the Kaitakushi; and a practice which can scarcely be believed exists which levies upon all produce exported by natives beyond the boundaries of the island of Yezo, an export duty of five or six per cent., payable in money. When the coast lessees, as the sea-weed collectors are called, reach Hakodate, driven desperate by the "squeezes" which have materially reduced their property, they occasionally try to evade the local export duty by shipping in a foreign name. True, by these means the export duty is saved, but the freight must then be paid in specie instead of currency, a liberal system of coast carriage drawing fine distinctions between natives and foreigners, compelling the latter to pay 40 per cent. more freight than the former.

The Kogiosho-kwai, which formerly ruled supreme over the native trade of Yezo, was denounced in these pages, and we have every reason to believe our wholesome strictures upon that institution led to its abolition, or at all events to reform in its administration. If it were not for the expression of justifiable opinion by the independent portion of the foreign press, the abuses which the people suffer at the hands of persons who lay claim to some sort of official power would go on increasing. The Kaitakushi is one of the most unpopular government departments in Japan. It has been drawing from the national purse 1,500,000 yen yearly; and how much from the people in the form of tithes of produce and export duties is a question there is no means of solving, and probably never will be. Has the Kaitakushi accounted to the government for its administration; and do the government know of and expressly or tacitly sanction the taxation of the people of Yezo, in the manner and to the extent complained of by the people?

This journal is being daily taken to task by another which assumes a position and attitude to which neither its ownership nor reputation give it the least claim. The object of this paper is to give the news as it is received; and to make such comments thereon as knowledge of public opinion teaches and justifies: the object of our critic and censor is the opposite. We stand on essentially different platforms. Our policy is the common good; and with that object in view we do not hesitate to attack an abuse, no matter who is at the bottom of it: and to place our readers in possession of every rumour and report, leaving to them the task of estimating their value and trustworthiness. The policy of the other is the opposite. Its task is to suppress the news; and to endeavour to influence public opinion by unfair arguments and *ex parte* reasoning. This the public of Yokohama thoroughly understands, and they appreciate the true reason.

A JAPANESE newspaper says that there is no possibility of the *Japan Gazette*, becoming Mr. Iwasaki Yataro's residuary legatee. In the interests of justice we hope not. The residuary legatee should be the Okurasho.

It is telegraphed that his Majesty the Mikado started for Utsunomiya at 7 a.m. yesterday.

THE *Akebono Shinbun* of to-day has the following item:—The *Mainichi Shinbun* referred to an important matter about the relation between the Kaitakushi and Kwansei Boyeki

Shokwai; and we hear that this subject has been a question long discussed in the cabinet, some members of which have been against the request of that company, whilst others have favoured it. It was finally decided that the settlement of the question should be deferred until his Majesty the Mikado returned from the north. Subsequently, one of the high officials of the Daijokwan left Tokio for Senju on the 30th of last month, overtook, and had a conference with his Majesty; the result was that all the property of the Kaitakushi was sold to the Kwansei Boyeki Shokwai at 300,000 yen, payable by instalments in thirty years, without interest, whilst the properties are estimated at 13,000,000 or 14,000,000 yen in value.

THE last *London and China Express* contains the first part of a letter written by a Mr. C. J. Pfoundes, a former resident of Nagasaki, and later of Yokohama. So much rubbish has been written of late concerning Japan and the Japanese that Mr. Pfoundes seized the opportunity which offered to add his quota of misstatements, and meaningless though pretentious paragraphs. How a journal professing to be devoted to the interests of China and Japan could be deluded into the publication of such a farago of nonsense is almost as great a mystery and surprise as its republication by a Yokohama newspaper.

THE Chamber of Commerce in Kobe has long been in abeyance, but now Messrs. Minoura and Kashima propose to establish it, and at the same time to encourage others and to impress on them the necessity of a chamber of commerce for commercial affairs; and a meeting will shortly be held for the establishment of the chamber.

MR. SUMITOMO KICHIZAYEMON, a rich merchant in Osaka, intends to establish a branch firm in San Francisco, for the purpose of engaging in direct trade.

THERE are notable exceptions to the persons we describe as typical Japanese merchants. We have the pleasure of personal acquaintance with some gentlemen who are by education, training, integrity, and acumen, eminently fitted to bear the honourable designation of merchant, as foreigners understand the term.

THE increasing hostility manifested by Japanese merchants towards foreigners is in many respects to be regretted. During the last ten years, if not for a longer period, every effort has been made by foreigners to promote a better and cordial understanding; but the effect has been the opposite to that anticipated. Native merchants who have been dealing uninterruptedly for twenty years with established houses; who have received immense sums for silk calculated at an average price fully one hundred per cent. higher than the cost of production, and have derived every benefit from a trade the aggregate result of which has left the foreigner nothing but experience, are now banding together to frame vexatious and obstructive regulations to harass further transactions. And this is done, not to benefit the silk trade, but to put money into the pockets of a few speculators who think that it, by a policy of obstruction and annoyance, they can drive foreigners out of the market, they will be enabled to buy up silk at their own price and ship it on their own account,



No IMPROVEMENT in the commercial status of this country can be hoped for until the production of commodities for export is increased. Tea and silk were the products of twenty years ago and they are the products now. Forming two-thirds of the whole export, and being of limited quantity, trade in these articles has degenerated into a close monopoly in the hands of a few persons who are materially interested in preventing the spread of other exportation. The increase of exportation would necessarily bring down to the foreign settlements numbers of dealers, and these foolish, prejudicial, and pecuniarily disastrous combinations would be impossible.

THE government may be unwilling to admit that their policy has had the effect of making commerce in Japan beneficial to a few who absorb all the profit which rightfully in large measure should go to the producer and consumer. The most serious obstacle to commercial progress and the acquisition of wealth is the condition of things which stultifies absolutely those treaty stipulations which are intended, and were deemed at the time of their insertion to be of the first importance in the promotion of commercial intercourse, to remove all restrictions limiting the classes of persons who shall be allowed to trade with foreigners.

A FACT which no person will venture to dispute is this;—that commercial intercourse between the open ports and the people is limited by restrictions imposed by a dozen persons. The producer cannot meet the foreign purchaser. The consumer never deals with the importer directly. Why? Because a dozen brokers have the power of control of the whole trade of the port of Yokohama, which they are now exploiting for their personal benefit.

MANY expressions of surprise are heard at the extent to which convict labour is availed of in Yokohama. Prisoners working in chain gangs, under the supervision of armed officials, may be seen watering the streets, working at drainage, &c.; and now they are employed to load and discharge cargo, coal, &c. There can be no objection to convict labour when it is not brought into competition with free labour; but when this is the case, in a country like this where there is such a superabundance of workers that large numbers of them are compelled to toil more like beasts of burden than men, the introduction of convict labour is to be deprecated. This is a truth the government will do well to consider in all its bearings with the ulterior object of withdrawing the criminal classes from competition with those who are taxed to support them.

NOTWITHSTANDING the unsettled and gloomy weather the Société Suisse de Tir held their second meeting on the rifle range on Monday. This was the first occasion upon which the committee had essayed the delicate and hazardous task of "handicapping" competitors, the result proving in a marked manner the knowledge of the merits of the respective shooters possessed by the handicappers, three gentlemen, Messrs. Doy, Beretta, and Murata scoring 45, 46, and 47 respectively, reduced by the handicap to 36, 36, and 35; very close work. Mr. Beretta made the largest number of points, but the winners ranked in the order given with the exception of Mr. Dare who retired to make way for Mr. Münch, who thus

secured the fifth prize. The following is the score of the winners. Twenty-eight gentlemen competed.

Distance 500 yards.

	Handicap.	Points.	Total.
Mr. Doy .....	9	45	36
Mr. Beretta .....	11	47	36
Col. Murata .....	11	46	35
Mr. Feyerabend ...	8	43	35
Mr. Münch .....	7	40	33
Mr. Dare .....	9	42	33

After the handicap, a match was got up of which Colonel Murata was the winner, scoring 49 points out of a possible 50: and proving himself to be not only the best marksman in Japan but the equal of the best shots in the world.

MR. KINGDON requests us to correct a passage in the article on reduction of ground rent in the issue of this paper of 6th instant. From what he says it appears we have made a slight mistake in facts, although not in principle. We stated that Mr. Kingdon undertook the cleansing of the streets single-handed, whereas apparently, from what he tells us, he only commenced in 1863 to clean the water frontage of the bund and hatoba from all the offensive garbage accumulated there, the expenses of which he defrayed out of his own pocket for six or eight months; all of which expenses were returned to him out of the ground rents before the end of the year by the governor of Kanagawa. His action was the basis of the scavenger corps, which was organized by an assessment on all the compounds and buildings in Yokohama; and strange to say, every person who rented premises of any kind, even to the smallest grog-shop, paid the quota assessed without demur. This scavenger corps became of such importance as to be the nucleus of the municipal council to which the government of Kanagawa returned a portion of ground rent for its maintenance.

Our mistake, therefore, consisted in omitting reference to the scavenger corps.

THE *Fuso-kan*, *Kongo-kan*, *Jingei-kan* and *Nisshin-kan* will be started on the 9th inst. for Hakodate where they will ship coal, after which they will proceed to Awomori for the purpose of receiving his Majesty the Mikado who is to sail for the Hokkaido.

NAKAMURA in Yenamigori, Yetchu, has been a noted place for lacquer ware from time immemorial, but recently the article produced there has become very inferior to that of former times owing to the carelessness of manufacturers and therefore this place is losing the fame it has so long enjoyed.

Regretting this, Messrs. Nakane Kane-kichi and Matsumoto Bunkichi proposed to establish a lacquer work manufacturing company to produce the best kind of wares, and they have succeeded in raising 4,600 shares, 10 yen each, and arrangements are so far advanced that they are able to commence operations. They intend to send in an application to the local authorities for a permit. They also intend to export their goods directly to foreign countries, upon getting such permission.

THE German brig *Otto* has been disposed of to a Japanese firm by Mr. F. da Roza for the sum of \$8,500, and will be transferred on or about the 15th instant.

## Law Reports.

IN H. B. M. COURT FOR JAPAN.

Before RUSSELL ROBERTSON, Esq., Acting Judge.

Tuesday, July 25th, 1881.

ABBOTT vs. COOK and COOK vs. ABBOTT.

Mr. Hill appeared for Mr. Abbott and Mr. Lowder for Mr. Cook.

After his Honour had read the decision some discussion took place as to the question of costs on which his Honour said he had a very strong opinion, but as both the counsel had rather long arguments to make, he would have to leave the final judgment to Mr. Russell Robertson, H. B. M. Consul and Assistant Judge. His Honour said his opinion on the question of costs was that the defendant ought to bear the costs of the original suit, and each party his own expenses in the reference. The referee's fees and court charges should be borne by both parties.

### JUDGMENT.

I have gone over the evidence taken on the reference, and bearing upon the particular points in the report to which objections have been raised, as well as the limited time at my disposal has enabled me to do, and I must confess that I entirely agree with the learned referee when he says that on most of these points, the evidence given has proved meagre and unsatisfactory. The referee has had an arduous and difficult task to accomplish, and in exercising the functions of a jury he has to come to conclusions in which, as the matter was put by the learned counsel for the plaintiff, the main question was as to the veracity of the parties. Under these circumstances, and considering that the referee in the course of the long and very numerous sittings that he held had very full opportunities of judging of the demeanor of the parties and their witnesses, I should be loath to disturb the conclusions at which he has arrived, unless I were thoroughly satisfied that those conclusions were not warranted by the evidence. I now proceed to consider briefly the points raised and the explanations that the referee has given me with regard to them.

Mr. Hill for the plaintiff Abbott, objects:—

1st.—That the referee had wrongly come to the conclusion that the promissory note, exhibit E, represented the balance of the north-west charter money, and that he had wrongly debited the plaintiff with the sum of \$1,883.

2nd.—That the plaintiff should have been credited with the sum of \$914 demurrage moneys, alleged by him to have been paid over by him to the defendant. These two objections may, I think, be fairly taken together, because if the demurrage moneys were paid over at all by the plaintiff to the defendant, they would probably have been so paid over before the promissory note exhibit E, was given. Now the referee tells me that one of the principal reasons which induced him to find that the promissory note represented the balance of the north-west charter money, and not the whole of the ship's moneys in the defendant's hands, as Mr. Hill argued, was that the plaintiff himself in giving evidence before the referee said that "he took the promissory note on account of certain moneys due him from the defendant, and not for the whole of ship's moneys in defendant's hands;"

and that in his, the referee's, opinion those words of the plaintiff could not well apply to any other moneys than those accruing from the north-west charter, and it is to be observed that this finding of the referee is in accordance with the verdict of the jury, at the hearing, to the effect that there had been no settlement of accounts between the parties during the joint ownership. I am therefore of opinion that the conclusions of the referee are reasonable on these two points.

3rd.—That the item of \$480 for old copper was wrongly charged against his client, but the referee holds strongly to his opinion on this point, and Mr. Hill himself admitted that his case here was not a very strong one. This item therefore must stand.

4th.—That the amount received by defendant on account of the sale of coals to the Russian ship *Abreck* should be debited to the defendant, as well as that received for the coals sold to the *Askold*. Mr. Lowder on the other hand urged that the referee should have decided wholly in the opposite way, and debited the defendant with the receipt of the *Abreck* moneys, in lieu of those arising from the *Askold*. Mr. Lowder based that argument on the ground that the evidence of the defendant in regard to the *Askold* moneys was corroborated in a great degree by the evidence of the witness Beattie, the referee, however, is strongly of opinion that although the witness Beattie may have given his evidence quite honestly in this matter, he must have been labouring under a mistake inasmuch as his description of the bag in which he states the dollars to have been carried, and the way in which that bag is alleged to have been secured, are utterly inconsistent with a possibility of its having contained such a large quantity of silver dollars, as those which accrued from the *Askold* sale. In this conclusion, I concur and think with the referee, that Mr. Beattie must have had in his mind some other and much smaller quantity of dollars than those in question. But assuming that Mr. Beattie's evidence on this point is to be given no credit to, I must confess that I do not see why the referee should not have found the *Abreck* money question in favour of the plaintiff, as well as that of the *Askold*. In each case the defendant admits his having received the money, and when he and his witness have together given, what the referee has in effect found to be, a highly improbable account of the manner in which the *Askold* moneys were handed over to the plaintiff. I do not see why the referee should have specially believed the defendant's uncorroborated evidence in regard to the *Abreck* moneys. I do not therefore accept the referee's conclusions on this point, but am of opinion that it should be varied by finding in favour of the plaintiff, in the two instances alike.

5th.—That the plaintiff should not have been charged with the total of \$616 as against the I.O.U. of Mr. Noble. On this point I confess it appears to me that the defendant's story as to his having advanced the money out of his own chest, and paid it over to the plaintiff, is highly improbable. It seems to me to be most unlikely, that if the defendant found that he could not at once obtain the money from Mr. Noble, he should then go to his own chest and discount the I. O. U. for the benefit of the plaintiff. Surely under the circumstances it is much more likely that he would either have handed the I. O. U. over to the plaintiff, or retained it until he could have cashed it for their joint benefit. I do not thus accept the referee's conclusion

on this point, but find it in favour of the plaintiff.

6th.—That the *Tennessee* money was wrongly found to have been received by the plaintiff. The referee, however, strongly adheres to his finding on this head. He points out that Mr. Hill's arguments as to the bill and vouchers being made out in the name of the defendant, and as to the defendant, about this time, being advertised as the agent for the sale of the coals, are to be met by the fact that bills for the coals were in the large majority of, if not in all, instances, made out in the name of Cook, that the advertisement as to Cook's agency was inserted about this period, in consequence of the plaintiff having interfered in the sale of the coals, and lastly and mainly by the fact that the coals in question were sold to the *Tennessee*, through Mr. Spooner the acknowledged agent of the plaintiff, whilst there is no evidence whatsoever to trace the moneys into the defendant's hands. I see no reason for disturbing the referee's conclusions on this point.

7th.—That article 6 of the charter party relating to pilotage fees, has been wrongly construed by the referee. Here, however, I entirely concur with the referee.

8th.—That the referee has wrongly allowed or passed certain items in sheet C of the defendant's accounts. I have not been able to follow closely the arguments of the plaintiff's counsel upon this head, but I am thoroughly satisfied with the referee's explanations in regard to it.

Mr. Hill lastly complains that in the accounts made up by the referee, his client is wrongly charged with \$961. I did not understand that Mr. Hill took this objection in court, but the referee explains to me that in this account the difference between the amounts as admitted by the plaintiff himself, and the amount allowed by the referee is only \$649, and that this is made up of two items of \$319 and \$330 respectively, which he has found against the plaintiff after very careful consideration, the first being in respect of cash for the crew of the *Parmenio*, and the other being vouched for by the plaintiff's own receipt.

Mr. Lowder for the defendant Cook objected.

1st.—That certain items of the account were barred by the statute of limitations and argued that joint owners of a ship not being partners in the eye of the law, the referee should, in taking the accounts have disregarded and struck out, those charges made by the plaintiff against the defendant, which were incurred more than six years ago. In this argument I do not concur, and I consider myself bound to follow what I conceive to be the clear meaning of Mr. Justice Lindley as expressed in Vol. I page 67 of his well-known work on Partnership. He there says:—"But where a ship is employed by all the part owners or by some of them, but not against the will of the others, they all share her gross earnings, and contribute to the expenses incurred in obtaining them, and in such a case there is little, if any, difference between the account which is taken between the part owners, and that which would be taken if they were actually partners." And although Mr. Lowder has argued that these words, must be taken as having reference only to the method of taking the accounts, and has cited certain authorities which he thinks support his arguments, I must adhere to my original view, and hold that the statute of limitations does not apply in this case.

2nd.—That the items 71, 136 and 138 were incurred for repairs of ship by the plaintiff without the authority of defendant, and that as master he had no authority to bind the defendant in this matter. As I stated however at the hearing, I am clearly of opinion that the plaintiff could and did do so as managing owner.

3rd.—That a certain sum of \$900 was wrongly charged against his client, in the final adjustment sheet, and as Mr. Hill appears to admit that this is so, I must of course allow this claim.

4th.—The *Askold* and *Abreck* matters I have already disposed of.

5th.—That the sum of \$9,000 odd on account of passage money and keep of two Chinese females had not been allowed against the plaintiff. The referee in the remarks annexed to this report observed that this claim was not seriously urged before him, and although Mr. Lowder denies this, and now asserts that he does most seriously urge it, I am not inclined to think that he is sanguine of success upon it. If the claim had been originally brought forward in a different form, and if it had only been for, and on account of the provisions supplied to these two females, I think the referee might perhaps have thought it right to consider the matter more seriously, but the claim for passage money appears to me to be almost ludicrous under the circumstances, and there can be no doubt upon the evidence that the defendant was well aware of the presence of the women on board the *Parmenio* and tacitly agreed to it. I think then that the referee was right in disregarding the enormous claim brought forward on this head *in toto*, and I shall support his decision.

On the whole I accept the referee's conclusions, except in the matter of the *Abreck* and *Christoforo Colombo* moneys which I think should be charged against the defendant, and the \$900 error which must be expunged.

There will be judgment for the plaintiff for such sum as the referee may, on a recasting of the adjustment sheet in accordance with the judgment I have just delivered, find to be due to the defendant.

Thursday, August 4th, 1881.

The court sat to-day to hear the arguments of counsel with regard to costs.

Mr. Lowder in the course of his arguments said that he had, on behalf of his client, made application repeatedly to have the accounts upon which the plaintiff Abbott based his claim; he had sent to Mr. Hill to request him to allow his, Mr. Lowder's, messenger to examine the accounts, but had been refused, and it remains to say whether the defendant being treated in this manner should be made to bear any of the costs of the reference or of the original trial. Mr. Lowder cited Roscoe's admiralty rules, upon which, he said, the questions of costs would be decided. According to these rules it is the duty of a master to furnish his co-partners with accounts before entering into any suit against them, failing which he would render himself liable to the whole costs of the suit if one third of his claim were disallowed, but if one fourth were struck off, each party would bear his own costs; and in this case, out of a claim of \$9,843.81 according to the revised final balance sheet of the referee, \$3,164 is allowed, which sum is decidedly less than one third, and the costs should therefore be borne solely by the plaintiff Abbott.

This concluding Mr. Lowder's arguments

Mr. Hill addressed the court. He said that Mr. Rennie on the last hearing, after giving his judgment, said he held a very decided opinion on the question of costs, and as he would communicate that opinion to his Honour the acting judge, he was willing to mention them, which he did at the hearing. Mr. Hill further said he was not aware that Mr. Rennie had leased his opinion on the question of costs on the admiralty rules, and he did not think that during any of the sittings Mr. Rennie had said so. As to Mr. Lowder's contention that the master was bound to lay accounts before his co-partners it was discussed and laid aside at the trial as having no bearing, the case having already commenced. On the question of the defendant Cook being refused accounts, Mr. Hill denied that the accounts had been refused, he having given the defendant and his counsel notice that the accounts were at his, Mr. Hill's, office and could be seen there. It had also been proved at the trial that Abbott wrote after the wreck of the *Parmerio* to Cook, asking for assistance and money. Cook replied that he owed Abbott nothing, and had already lost money, and told him to sell the ship if he required anything. Abbott did so, and came to Yokohama and asked Cook repeatedly to settle with him, which Cook refused to do, and denied his indebtedness to Abbott. Mr. Hill thought if he had had more time he would have been able to obtain a more favourable balance for his client. The cross-suit had, Mr. Hill thought, little or no merit. Mr. Lowder's contention that if the accounts had been produced before the trial, a settlement would have certainly been made, was not at all probable, and indeed was most unlikely; and besides it was open to the defendant before the trial to have examined the accounts, he having received notice that the accounts were in Mr. Hill's office. Mr. Hill also contended that several amounts in the reference expenses, especially \$600 for accountant's fees ought to be equally borne by the parties. As the accounts would have had to be examined even if the parties had not come into court this item ought therefore to be divided, also several other expenses of smaller denomination ought for the same reason, to be divided, but the referee's fees and the court fees should, as the case has gone against the defendant, be borne by him.

Mr. Lowder said he understood Mr. Hill to have said that Mr. Rennie had not mentioned that his opinion on the question of costs was based on the admiralty rules. Such was not the case, however; Mr. Rennie having distinctly stated that he did follow them. On this point the judge is left to decide by his own discretion guided by authorities, and in the present case these authorities which he Mr. Lowder, had cited would be found to bear directly upon this case. Mr. Lowder said that he wished to know the reason, and asked his Honour to observe that the plaintiff had only brought on the case a year after he had been wrecked; and even although it were true, as Mr. Hill had said, that Abbott had verbally asked Cook to settle, he only demanded a certain sum and not producing accounts Cook naturally refused to pay him anything. As for the statement made by Mr. Hill that the accounts were in his, Mr. Hill's, office before the petition was filed, and that Cook had received notice that he could see them, it was the plaintiff's duty to furnish them. Mr. Lowder said he did not suppose his Honour would see any cause to decide the question of costs by the laws of equity,

but he, Mr. Lowder, would cite some authorities although his client's case rested on the decision by the admiralty rules.

His Honour said he would require to go over the whole of the case carefully before he could give judgment.

Monday, August 8th, 1881.

The final judgment in this cause was rendered to-day, the counsel for both parties being present. As will be seen His Honour the Acting Judge has adhered to the opinion on the question of costs, as expressed by Mr. Rennie. Mr. Hill after the judgment had been read mentioned that an error had been found in the referee's accounts, which would change the final balance sheet.

#### JUDGMENT.

##### In the matter of costs.

Judgment in this case was delivered on the 26th July, the question of costs being reserved by consent. On the 4th inst. I heard the arguments of counsel and now proceed to give judgment in the matter of costs in this suit.

Mr. Lowder argues that the practice in Admiralty should govern the court in its decision in this matter, and that although rule 262 of the rules of Procedure, Order in Council 1865, lays down that the costs of a suit and of each particular proceeding therein, are in the discretion of the court, yet such discretion is not to be held to mean one, that is subject to the governing rule or principle, but while a reasonable discretion is left to the judge, he should still be guided by some defined rule of practice as to costs, the practice to be applied in this particular case being, as the learned counsel contends, that which prevails in Admiralty. It is also further submitted to me by Mr. Lowder that Mr. Judge Rennie stated that the question of costs in this suit should be determined on the basis of Admiralty practice, but Mr. Hill declares himself to be unaware that utterance was given to any such expression of opinion.

Mr. Lowder has referred me to *Pearce vs. Green* 1, Jacob and Walker 135 *Pritchard's Digest* 486. "*Fleur de Lis*" *Law Reports* 1 Admiralty 49; *Roscoe's Admiralty Law and Practice* page 213.

In the first mentioned case it appears that the managing owner of a privateer was condemned to the costs of a suit for an account, he having neglected to render accounts. In the "*Fleur de Lis*" case, Dr. Lushington held that: "The master was bound by practice and justice to furnish accounts before, bringing his suit. He might have had the amount claimed without suit, he is therefore not entitled to his costs." In *Roscoe's Admiralty Law and Practice* page 218, it would appear that as a general rule if the plaintiff's claim is reduced by one third he has to bear costs, if reduced by one fourth each party bears his own costs, but this rule does not apply to the case of master's wages; see also 1 *Pritchard's Digest* 114, costs section 266. Mr. Lowder has also referred me to *Newton v. Taylor*, 19 *Law Reports*, Equity 14. The object of such reference being that if the question of costs in the suit of Abbott *vs.* Cook, and the cross suit Cook *vs.* Abbott is not decided on the basis of Admiralty practice, then the case referred to is important as showing that costs should follow the respective interests of the parties in the subject matter of the *Newton vs. Taylor*, that

costs should be borne in the proportion of one-twelfth by plaintiff and eleven-twelfths by the defendant. The learned counsel dwells strongly on the alleged duty of the plaintiff to furnish accounts before suit, and contends that a mere invitation to inspect the accounts at the office of plaintiff's counsel, does not amount to a furnishing of accounts as required.

Mr. Hill does not call in question the references to cases made by Mr. Lowder, but rests his arguments principally on the opinion expressed by Mr. Rennie on the conclusion of his judgment, that the costs of the original suit should be borne by the defendant Cook, and the costs of the reference suit should be divided equally between the litigants. He denies all cognizance of any expression by Mr. Rennie that the question of costs should be settled according to Admiralty practice. The learned counsel further contends with regard to the division of the costs of the reference that there should be no such division but that the defendant should in addition to bearing the costs of the original suit, bear the entire costs of reference, and that half the amount of certain accountant's expenses incurred by his client anterior to the reference should be paid by the defendant. A saving of the expenses would, Mr. Hill contends, have been effected, had Mr. Lowder responded to his invitation to inspect the accounts at his, Mr. Hill's, office.

I feel myself precluded from reviewing the case, the costs of which now form the subject of this judgment, but I have to make the following remarks on the points submitted to me on the 4th instant by counsel. Had the proceedings in this suit been in Admiralty, then the references made by Mr. Lowder might have had some weight with me. There is nothing, however to connect the proceedings with those in Admiralty, and I am bound to say that Mr. Rennie in discussing with me the question of costs made no allusion whatever to Admiralty practice as guiding him in this matter. It is however due to Mr. Lowder to mention that the learned referee, Mr. Enslie, has a distinct recollection of Mr. Rennie's mention of Admiralty practice, but even allowing that such practice is to prevail, I do not see how the learned counsel can explain away the words in *Roscoe's Admiralty practice* page 213, that on a reference, and in the case of master's wages the costs must depend on the circumstances of each particular case, and not on the general rule as to reduction by one third or by one fourth of the amount in dispute. I should perhaps have been inclined to give more consideration as bearing on this suit, to the case *Newton vs. Taylor*, *Law Reports* 19, Equity 14, quoted by Mr. Lowder, had it not been for the strong expression of opinion communicated to me by Mr. Rennie to the same effect as uttered from the bench, and quoted correctly by Mr. Hill, namely, that the losing party should pay the costs of the original suit, and that the costs of the reference should be divided in equal proportion. I cannot possibly affect to disregard an opinion coming as it does from the judge who heard the case, and from one whose knowledge and experience considerably outweigh my own, and I therefore order that the costs of this cause be borne in the manner as suggested by Mr. Rennie, namely, the costs of the original suit by the defendant Cook, and the costs of the reference equally by the parties.

(Signed) RUSSELL B. ROBERTSON.

August 8th, 1881.



## IMPERIAL GERMAN CONSULAR COURT.

Before E. ZAPPE, Esq., Consul,  
and

Messrs. E. BERGER and BAHR, Assessors.

P. GUTSCHOW vs. H. E. SCHNIEWIND.

Mr. Weiller appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. H. Ahrens for the defendant.

This was an action to release an attachment on \$3,000 levied upon the property of P. Gutschow & Co. of Yokohama, for the security of a judgment obtained by H. E. Schniewind against the firm of Gutschow & Co., under the following circumstances: On the 31st of December 1878 H. E. Schniewind obtained a judgment against the firm of Gutschow & Co., for the sum of \$3,000. Plaintiffs appealed, but pending the appeal, went into liquidation, and the attachment was granted on the 31st May 1879, to secure the judgment; and the money was deposited in court. In the meantime however, the Appellate court of Stettin in another suit had decided that the firm of F. Gutschow in Hamburg should be declared the sole proprietors of the firm of Gutschow & Co., in Yokohama, and that Paul Gutschow was not a member of the firm, and that the said Paul Gutschow should make the necessary alteration in the register of firms in the I. German Consular Court in Yokohama. Hence the plaintiff claimed in the present suit that he should not have been made the defendant in the suit in which Schniewind was plaintiff, and that the said Schniewind must have recourse to the firm of F. Gutschow & Co. in Hamburg, and that the \$3,000 attached in the consulate should be returned to P. Gutschow. The court after hearing the petition and answer and giving it careful consideration, pronounced judgment of which the following is a brief résumé. The court dismisses the application on the grounds, that the firm of Gutschow & Co. established here, was possessed of property independent of the firm at Hamburg, having their own assets and liabilities. That Schniewind had given credit to the firm in Yokohama. That the contention between the firms at Hamburg and Yokohama could not affect the creditors here; or their rights to the property of the firm. That the order to make the alteration in the register of firms not having been obeyed, the creditors had no means of knowing that Paul Gutschow was not a member of the firm. That the "Retention Right" claimed by P. Gutschow could not be maintained, if such right existed, it lay against F. Gutschow & Co. in Hamburg. The money in question was deposited as security for a judgment obtained by Schniewind against the firm here. Therefore he has an indisputable right to the same. The judgment of the court is that plaintiff's motion to release the attachment be dismissed and that the attached money be delivered to the defendant for whose benefit the attachment was originally made. Costs to be borne by the plaintiff.

With regard to the *Hochung Lapwing* collision case, we learn that the plaintiffs in the original suit and the defendants in the cross action have determined to appeal to the Privy Council; and leave to appeal will be immediately applied for in the Supreme Court here. To-day (29th July), two of the foremost leaders of the Admiralty bar, at home, have been retained by telegram on behalf of the China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company.—*Shanghai Courier*.

## HIOGO.

(Hiogo News.)

Two stowaways were discovered on board the *Nagoya-maru* shortly after the vessel left Nagasaki on her last voyage to Kobe. The men claimed to be American citizens, and on the steamer's arrival on Sunday were taken by the Japanese police to the Municipal gaol, where they were naturally refused admission. The Japanese authorities then took charge of them for the night, and next day introduced them to the United States Consul. General Stahel objected to interfere with the men; the Japanese declined to keep them in custody any longer, and so they were released to shift for themselves as best they might.

## NAGASAKI.

(R. S. and Nagasaki Express.)

The principal cause of the unusual length of time occupied by the Mitsu Bishi Co's schooner *Awajishima Maru*, on the voyage from Kobe to this port recently, was not difficult to discover, nor had it far to be sought after; for upon beaching her at Inasa her bottom was found to be in a fearful state, considering the time that had elapsed since docking, which, added to the strong head currents and almost incessant calms that was experienced, the greatest matter for surprise is that she succeeded in making the passage at all.

A fire is reported to have occurred on board the Mitsui Busan Co.'s S. S. *Hideyoshi Maru* in Kuchinoten harbour. It was, however, confined to the vicinity of the lamp-room, where it commenced, but was not extinguished before the majority of the lamps were destroyed.

## SHANGHAI.

(N.-C. Daily News.)

It is rumoured that it is the intention of the China Merchants' Company to appeal against the decision delivered on Thursday by R. A. Mowat, Esq., Acting Chief Justice of H. M.'s Supreme Court, in the *Hochung Lapwing* collision case.

The European officers employed in the Canton Gunboat Squadron have left the Chinese service, their engagements having expired, and the vessels will now be officered exclusively by Chinese.

We have been asked to solicit the sympathy of our readers on behalf of the crew of the *Annie S. Hall*, which vessel was wrecked near the Tai-chow Islands under circumstances already reported in our columns. We are informed that the men, who are now in Shanghai, lost all their clothing and personal effects, and that cast-off suits or spare clothing of any kind will be distributed among them if forwarded to the shipping office of the United States Consulate-General. The case is a deserving one, and we have no doubt that our readers will readily supply the articles asked for.

At the conclusion of the proceedings connected with the suit arising out of the collision between H. M. S. *Lapwing* and the C.M.S.N. Co.'s steamer *Hochung*, yesterday (July 28th), in H. M.'s Supreme Court, Mr. W. V. Drummond applied for permission for Mr. Thomas Latham, barrister-at-law, to practise in that Court. R. A. Mowat, Esq., Acting Chief Justice, said he had great pleasure in admitting Mr. Latham, and said that as that gentleman had recently arrived from Home, he supposed they would be now well supplied with the last authorities on everything. Mr. Latham briefly thanked His Lordship and hoped that he would be able to properly apply the authorities he had referred to. We understand that Mr. Latham has come to Shanghai as Mr. Drummond's partner.

(Shanghai Mercury.)

The bodies of four native female passengers and six of the crew were washed ashore on the island on which the *Aberdonian* was wrecked, and buried by the inhabitants. Portions of the wreckage were found in the joss-houses. A native junk, laden with Foochow poles, was wrecked the same night; all hands but one were lost. The native who was saved reports that three foreigners were on board it.

This morning at 5.30 (Aug. 1st), H. M. ship *Lapwing* steamed slowly down the river, homeward bound, her officers and crew no doubt glad that their unpleasant stay here is ended. On passing the two German gunboats *Wolf* and *Iltis*, which are anchored opposite the Old Dock, the crews of these two war vessels manned the rigging and gave three hearty cheers in true man-of-war style, as an expression of the good-will and sympathy which exists between the British and German navies. The *Lapwing* coaled at the Naval Yard, and proceeded on her voyage in the afternoon.

A Chinese Cotton Mill is again projected. The promoters are looking about for a site in Hongkew. The recent site is considered to be too dear. It has cost the present owner, Taotai Sheng, about Tls. 40,000. We should not be surprised if it were carried through this time. Some of the promoters are the same as of the former, and will perhaps profit by their errors.

The S. V. *Light Horse* mustered to the number of 31 last night to form a guard of honour to Captain Keswick. They escorted him from the Ewo long to the P. & O. Jetty. Captain Keswick passed through a line of the troopers, and at the end of the jatty said a few words of farewell to the troop, who gave him a hearty cheer, as he stepped on board the *Dragon*.

(Shanghai Courier)

We reported on the 7th instant that Cheng-Tsao-ju, Customs Taotai at Tientsin had been appointed by Imperial Decree to supersede H. E. Chen Lan-pin, the present Chinese Minister to the United States, Spain and Peru, on the expiration of that officer's term of service. The newly appointed Minister was formerly Director of the Kiangnan Arsenal and is expected here shortly, en route for the United States and the other countries to which he is accredited.

## Shipping.

## ARRIVALS.

July 27, Brit. barq. *Woodbine*, F. Steel, 251, from Nagasaki, July 12th, Coals, to J. E. Collyer & Co.  
 July 28, Jap. str. *Kokonoye-Maru*, Dithlefsen, 1,183, from Hakodate, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 July 29, Brit. barq. *James Wilson*, Holmes, 325, from Newcastle, N.S.W., May 25th, Coals, to Walsh, Hall & Co.  
 July 30, Jap. str. *Shario-Maru*, Kilgour, 800, from Hakodate, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Aug. 1, Jap. str. *Wakanoura-Maru*, Christensen, 1,300, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Aug. 1, Am. ship *Paul Revere*, Mullin, 1,739, from Kobe, Tea, to John Middleton.  
 Aug. 1, Jap. str. *Niigata-Maru*, Wynn, 1,603, from Hongkong via Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Aug. 3, Jap. str. *Toyoshima-Maru*, Hubbard, 598, from Hakodate, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Aug. 3, Brit. str. *Agamemnon*, J. Wilding, 1,585, from London, 10th June, via Hongkong, 28th July, General, to Butterfield & Swire.  
 Aug. 3, Brit. str. *Sunda*, Reeves, 1,701, from Hongkong via Nagasaki, Mails and General, to P. & O. Co.  
 Aug. 4, Jap. str. *Nagoya-Maru*, Walker, 1,914, from Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Aug. 4, Frch. str. *Tanais*, Drujon, 1,735, from Hongkong, Mails and General, to M. M. Co.  
 Aug. 4, Jap. str. *Tokai-Maru*, Hogg, 1,042, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Aug. 5, Brit. barq. *Carstang*, Yarnoll, 801, from Newcastle, N.S.W., 20th June, Coals, to Mollison, Fraser & Co.  
 Aug. 5, Am. str. *City of Peking*, Berry, 5,079, from Hongkong, Mails and General, to P. M. Co.  
 Aug. 5, Jap. barq. *Sumanoura-Maru*, Spiegelthal, 925, from Nagasaki, Coals, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Aug. 8, Ger. schr. *Amie*, Muller, 343, from Shanghai, put in, in distress, General, to Grosser & Co.  
 Aug. 8, Am. ship *Frank Pendleton*, Nichols, 1,414, from Cardiff, April 5th, Patent Fuel, to J. E. Collyer & Co.  
 Aug. 11, Brit. str. *Metapedia*, Fowler, 1,450, from Kobe, Tea, to Smith, Baker & Co.  
 Aug. 10, Jap. str. *Genkai-Maru*, Conner, 1,917, from Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.

## DEPARTURES.

July 27, Jap. str. *Hiroshima-Maru*, Haswell, 1,870, for Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 July 28, Brit. str. *Belgie*, Davison, 2,627, for San Francisco, Mails and General, despatched by O. & O. Co.  
 July 28, Brit. str. *Gaelic*, Kidley, 2,704, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by O. & O. Co.  
 July 30, Brit. str. *Metapedia*, Fowler, 1,452, for Kobe, General, despatched by Smith, Baker & Co.  
 July 31, Frch. str. *Volga*, Guirand, 1,502, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by M. M. Co.  
 Aug. 1, Jap. str. *Shinagawa-Maru*, Walker, 908, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Aug. 1, Brit. ship *Frank Carvill*, Chapman, 1,484, for San Francisco, Ballast, despatched by M. M. Co.  
 Aug. 2, Ger. barq. *Poi Ho*, Lamcken, 483, for Burrard Inlet, Ballast, despatched by V. Bohm.  
 Aug. 3, Jap. str. *Tokio-Maru*, Swain, 2,119, for Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Aug. 4, Frch. barq. *Magellan*, Landard, 480, for Burrard Inlet, Ballast, despatched by Mollison, Fraser & Co.  
 Aug. 4, Am. barq. *Florence Treat*, Veaze, 769, for Burrard Inlet, Ballast, despatched by Mollison, Fraser & Co.  
 Aug. 3, Jap. str. *Hiogo-Maru*, Walker, 896, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Aug. 5, H. M. gun-boat *Mosquito*, Lieut.-Comd. Hon. Sandilands, 4-guns, 501 tons, 69 men, for Hakodate.  
 Aug. 6, Brit. barq. *Eccelsior*, Hutton, 664, for Burrard Inlet, Ballast, despatched by Mollison, Fraser & Co.  
 Aug. 6, Jap. str. *Niigata-Maru*, Wynn, 1,603, for Hongkong via Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.

Aug. 8, Jap. str. *Wakanoura-Maru*, Christensen, 1,800, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Aug. 8, Jap. str. *Kokonoye-Maru*, Dithlefsen, 1,183, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Aug. 8, Brit. str. *Agamemnon*, Wilding, 1,585, for Kobe, General, despatched by Butterfield & Swire.  
 Aug. 9, Brit. str. *Sunda*, Reeves, 1,704, for Hongkong via Nagasaki, Mails and General, despatched by P. & O. Co.  
 Aug. 9, Jap. str. *Sumida-Maru*, Hubenet, 896, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Aug. 9, Jap. str. *Tsuruga-Maru*, Steadman, 661, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Aug. 10, Jap. str. *Nagoya-Maru*, Walker, 1,914, for Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Aug. 11, Jap. str. *Tokai-Maru*, Hogg, 1,042, for Hiogo, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.

## PASSENGERS.

Per Brit. barq. *Woodbine*, from Nagasaki:—Messrs. J. Mitchell and J. Thomas.  
 Per Jap. str. *Hiroshima-Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—H. I. H. Fushimi-no-Miya, Mr. and Mrs. J. Luck and 3 children, Mrs. S. Milton, Mrs. Woodworth, Miss L. Martinel, Messrs. F. F. Street, Skidmore, J. Winokler, A. Bing, and 11 Japanese in cabin.  
 Per Brit. str. *Belgie*, for San Francisco:—Capt. Huntington (U.S.N.), Rev. Chs. Wood, Lieut.-Col. J. E. Longdon, Messrs. Frank Gerger, F. W. Damon, John Benary, Ed. Wirth, Chs. Aynard, Geo. Bertrand, Wm. McGregor, E. Wilhelm, W. T. Brooke and A. C. Bryer in cabin; 3 Europeans and 596 Chinese in steerage. For Liverpool: Judge R. T. Rennie, Lieut. Buddiour (A.N.), and Lieut. Napier (A.N.), in cabin. For London: Lieut. A. H. Anson (A.N.) in cabin. For Hamburg: Mr. Rudolf Telge in cabin.  
 Per Brit. str. *Gaelic*, for Hongkong:—General Van Buren, U. S. Consul-General, and Mr. F. E. Foster, General Agent P. M. S. S. Co. in China and Japan.  
 Per Jap. str. *Kokonoye-Maru*, from Hakodate:—Professor Brown, Mrs. Draper, Mr. Thompson, Capt. Fulda; and 80 Japanese.  
 Per Jap. str. *Shario-Maru*, from Hakodate:—20 Japanese in steerage.  
 Per Brit. str. *Metapedia*, for Kobe:—Messrs. A. K. Noble, Crow and Billbrough in cabin.  
 Per Jap. str. *Wakanoura-Maru*, from Kobe:—Messrs. E. O. Kirby, Badge, Mahlsmann, Williams; and 250 Japanese.  
 Per Am. ship *Paul Revere*, from Kobe:—Messrs. Adams and Bartell.  
 Per Frch. str. *Volga*, for Hongkong:—Messrs. Schaffer, Nauhardt and Harris in cabin.  
 Per Jap. str. *Niigata-Maru*, from Hongkong via Kobe:—Mr. and Mrs. Marsh, Mr. Colenso, 2 Chinese and 70 Japanese.  
 Per Jap. str. *Toyoshima-Maru*, from Hakodate:—100 Japanese in steerage.  
 Per Brit. str. *Agamemnon*, from London via Hongkong:—Mr. and Mrs. Vawdrey, Miss Towers and Master Towers in cabin.  
 Per Brit. str. *Sunda*, from Hongkong via Nagasaki:—Comd. Carief, A.N., Mr. J. Stoddart and servant, Miss Linden, Miss Chaplin and Wang Wah Choon in cabin; and 6 Chinese on deck.  
 Per Jap. str. *Tokio-Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Prince de Lisle, Baron B. Machin, Mrs. Oroby, Mrs. J. Grigor and two children, Messrs. Guild, Degiez, C. Cottell, G. H. Grant, A. N. Rathbone, Cansit, Hill, Shoemaker, and 19 Japanese in cabin.  
 Per Jap. str. *Nagoya-Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Messrs. W. Lang and servant, Kleinwort, Lehmann, Prichard, A. K. Noble, Dr. J. R. Browne, and 7 Japanese in cabin; and 2 Europeans, 1 Chinese and 246 Japanese in steerage. For San Francisco: Mrs. S. J. Holmes.  
 Per Frch. str. *Tanais*, from Marseilles:—Messrs. Marmout, Okubo, Kawashima, Mizushima, Akabane, and Iwaga in cabin. From Naples: Messrs. Osaka, Tonaka, and Bogliacino in cabin. From Galles: Mr. Ed. Whitall in cabin. From Hongkong: 1 Chinese in steerage.  
 Per Jap. str. *Hiogo-Maru*, for Hakodate:—Messrs. Milne, Dimock and Chamberlain.  
 Per Am. str. *City of Peking*, from Hongkong:—Messrs. M. Brown, L. L. Bush, J. MacGregor and servant in cabin; and two in steerage. To San Francisco: Dr. and Mrs. Jessop in cabin; two Europeans and 885 Chinese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Kokonoye-Maru*, for Hakodate:—Miss McKenzie, Professor Brown and Capt. Fulda in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Niigata-Maru*, for Hongkong via Kobe:—Messrs. F. O. Spooner, E. C. Kirby, Ellis, F. S. Jacobs, Geo. Bayfield, J. J. Enslie; and 6 Japanese in cabin.

Per Brit. str. *Sunda*, for Hongkong via Nagasaki:—Messrs. J. Stoddart, J. Mitchell, and J. A. Figuerado in cabin; 56 Japanese and 6 Chinese in steerage.

Per Brit. str. *Agamemnon*, for Kobe:—Mr. Thumend; and 38 natives.

Per Jap. str. *Nagoya-Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Dr. Roretz, Mrs. Maitland, Messrs. R. W. Irwin, V. E. Braga, Taylor, 15 Japanese and 29 Koreans in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Genkai-Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Lieut. Perry, U.S.N., Mrs. Simpson and child, Mr. and Mrs. Lindholm and 2 children, Dr. and Mrs. Pfiffer and 3 children, Madame Lattikoff, Mrs. Mangum, Mrs. Maitland, Messrs. F. J. Marshall, F. Colomb, D. Betaler, U.S.N., H. M. Fleischer, A. Garnier, Schleichenger, Muhle, Cottali, Helme, and 18 Japanese in cabin; and 5 European, 3 Chinese and 240 Japanese in steerage. For San Francisco: For Liverpool: Mr. and Mrs. F. Major, Mr. Ponomareff in cabin.

## REPORTS.

The German schooner *Annie* reports:—Left Shanghai July 21st bound for Hiogo with 1,800 piculs general cargo. Experienced variable winds and moderate weather to Van Diemens Straits through which we passed July 28th; July 30th took a bearing from Boungou Channel, when it commenced to blow hard from E.N.E. and N.E. with a heavy swell from S.E. and N.E.; took in all sail, ship labouring heavily and sprung jibboom; at noon Bar. 29.85 wind and sea increasing; at midnight Bar. 29.76 tremendous sea and gale increasing; at 6 a.m. 31st the wind shifted to East again, noon Bar. 29.68 wind and sea increasing accompanied with blinding hard squalls during which we were unable to see anything whatever; afternoon wind hauled to the E.N.E. at 10 p.m. wind shifted to East Bar. 29.60; at 8 a.m. 1st Aug. Bar. 29.23 typhoon at its height between this and 10 a.m. wind veering E. and N., Bar. 29.10; at 11 a.m. Barometer rising 29.30; at noon moderating, four feet and half water in hold, ship having strained herself considerably; afterwards finding ship had drifted 240 miles to the Eastward and current still setting her East, bore for Yokohama, took pilot off Vries Islands and arrived at anchorage at 8 p.m. 6th Aug. All well.

The American ship *Frank Pendleton* reports:—Left Cardiff on the 5th. of April last with a cargo of patent fuel; had moderate weather up to the 10th. April when a heavy south-west gale was encountered in lat. 44°05' N. long. 14°44' W., heavy sea from the southward; ship laboured heavily, causing a bad leak; gale lasted three days; April 12th. it was considered necessary for safety of lives and ship, to heave cargo overboard; crossed equator in long. 27° west, thirty days out; had south east trade winds till the 16th May lat. 22°27' long. 29°24' W. when the wind became variable and weather heavy. On May 27th. in lat. 38° S. long. 2°30' W. had a very dangerous and heavy south-east gale; sent royal yards on deck, ship behaved very badly during the night; on the 28th. shipped a heavy sea fore and aft which washed the man from the wheel, but fortunately he had been secured with rope to the weather rail; sea went clean over the ship, taking topmast staysail, and completely filling decks; on 29th. whilst wearing ship round shipped a heavy sea which washed the doors from forehouse, and passing through the galley swept away cooking utensils, and washed adrift a water cask; the 2nd. and 3rd. officers were floated about the deck but fortunately not overboard; on the 30th. got light southerly and east winds; spoke the following vessels: June 1st. British ship *Edith Lowe* from River Tees for Hobart Town, lat. 38°38' S. long. 30°30' E., on 2nd. the American barque *Julia* from Boston to Port Adelaide, 3rd. British barque *Windward*, London for China, also the ship *Churchwood* London for Sydney; 4th. British barque *Golden Fleece*, London to Adelaide; 5th. *Knight of the Thistle* London to Singapore; doubled the Cape of Good Hope June 8th. and came to at Anjer July 8th.; light south west winds up through the China sea; August 3rd. made Osaka light; during the same day passed through an immense quantity of drift wood covering 6 or 7 miles, and so closely packed as to nearly hide the water, the logs were round and varied from 10 to 18 feet in length; cast anchor outside the shipping on Sunday evening, having made the passage in 134 days.

## COMMERCIAL CIRCULAR.

YOKOHAMA, AUGUST 11TH, 1881.

Showing Duties payable, Prices realized, Quotations, and Estimated Sales of Goods in Yokohama, for the period of 15 days from 26th July 1881, to the 9th August 1881, inclusive.

## IMPORTS.

A slight improvement in currency exchange has been established since the last mail, and a fair business in imports has been done though yarn sales have not reached three-fifths of the quantity disposed of in the preceding period. Of the total of 3,010 bales a fair proportion is for arrival within fifteen to fifty days. A slight advance in price of certain qualities of yarn is observable, but quotations for other qualities show little if any change.

YARNS.—Sales reported reach 3,010 Bales against 5,535 Bales for the preceding period; making a total for the year to date of 39,106 Bales—viz.: 22,958 Bales 16/24; 7,902 Bales 28/32; 1,332 Bales 38/42; 1,545 Bales doubled, and 5,369 Bales Indian qualities.

SUGAR.—White weaker, Brown a little stronger.

KEROSENE.—Sales at quotation but market weak at the close.

133 lbs. = 1 Picul.

100 Dollars Mexican = 311 Silver Boos.

	DUTY CALCULATED IN MEXICAN DOLLARS.	DUTY PAID.		ESTIMATED SALES. (From 26th July to 9th August.)
		PRICES AT WHICH SALES HAVE BEEN MADE.	NOMINAL QUOTATIONS.	
COTTON PIECE GOODS.				
Drills, American, 40 yds. 30 in. 14 lbs. ...	0.0241 ₱ 10 yds.	\$ ————— ₱ pc.	\$2.55 @ 3.50	————— pieces.
Prints, assorted, 24 „ 30 „ ...	0.0241 „ „	1.45 @ 2.20 „ „	1.00 @ 2.75	1,800 „
Satins (cotton) ...	0.0643 „ „	————— ₱ yd.	0.11½ @ 0.12	————— „
Shirtings, Grey, 38½ yds. 39 in. 7 lbs. ...	0.0281 „ „	————— ₱ pc.	1.40 @ 1.90	————— „
„ „ 38½ „ 39 „ 8½ „ ...	0.0281 „ „	1.87½ @ 2.25 „ „	1.75 @ 2.35	8,500 „
„ „ 38½ „ 45 „ 9 „ ...	0.0321 „ „	2.18½ @ 2.45 „ „	2.12 @ 2.70	20,500 „
„ „ 39 „ 39 „ 10 „ ...	0.0321 „ „	3.05 „ „	—————	250 „
T. Cloth, 32 in. 6 lbs. ...	{ 0.0241 „ „	—————	1.20 @ 1.50	————— „
„ „ 7 „ ...		1.57½ „ „	1.55 @ 1.75	1,500 „
Turkey Reds, 24 yds. 30 in. 1½ lb. ...	{ „ „	1.42 „ „	—————	300 „
„ „ 24 „ 30 „ 2½ „ @ 2½ lb. ...		1.52 @ 1.62½ „ „	—————	2,900 „
„ „ 24 „ 30 „ 2½ „ „ „ ...	{ 0.2041 „ „	—————	1.65 @ 2.00	————— „
„ „ 24 „ 30 „ — @ 3 lbs. ...		—————	1.60 @ 2.20	————— „
Velvets (black) 35 „ 22 „ ...	0.0643 „ „	7.65 @ 8.70 „ „	7.00 @ 8.70	440 „
Victoria Lawns, 12 „ 42 „ ...	0.0321 „ „	0.63½ @ 0.73 „ „	0.60 @ 0.80	6,200 „
Cotton Italians, 35 „ 32 „ ...	0.0643 „ „	————— ₱ yd.	0.10 @ 0.15	————— „
COTTON YARN.				
Nos. 16 @ 24 reversed ...	{ 1.6077 ₱ picul.	————— ₱ pc.	—————	————— bales
„ 16 @ 24 ...		28.50 @ 33.10 „ „	—————	2,050 „
„ 28 @ 32 ...		33.00 @ 35.75 „ „	—————	445 „
„ 38 @ 42 ...		38.00 @ 39.25 „ „	—————	210 „
„ 32 doubled ...		37.50 „ „	—————	40 „
„ 42 „ ...		————— „ „	—————	————— „
„ 60 „ ...		————— „ „	—————	————— „
„ 100 „ ...		————— „ „	—————	————— „
Indian No. 10 ...		————— „ „	—————	————— „
„ „ 12 ...		————— „ „	—————	————— „
„ „ 14 ...		————— „ „	—————	————— „
„ „ 16 ...		28.50 @ 29.75 „ „	—————	35 „
„ „ 20 ...		29.25 @ 29.60 „ „	—————	230 „
WOOLLENS AND MIXTURES.				
Alpaca, 40 yds. 32 in. ...	0.0965 ₱ 10 yds.	————— ₱ pc.	\$5.50 @ \$7.00	—————
Blankets, assorted ...	{ 1.6077 ₱ picul.	————— ₱ lb.	—————	—————
„ „ 6 lbs. (70 scarlet 30 green propn. ...		0.40 „ „	—————	1,700 pairs.
„ „ 5 lbs. Black ...	0.35 „ „	—————	—————	2,300 „
Cloth, all wool, 54 @ 64 lbs. ...	0.0965 ₱ 10 yds.	————— ₱ yd.	0.80 @ 1.50	—————
„ Pilots, 54 @ 64 „ ...	{ 0.3215 under 55 in. to 0.4019 exceeding 55 in. in width ₱ 10 yds.	—————	0.30 @ 0.60	—————
„ Presidents, 54 @ 64 „ ...		—————	0.60 @ 0.70	—————
„ Union, 54 @ 56 „ ...		—————	0.35 @ 0.60	—————
Italian Cloth, 32 in. ...		—————	0.25 @ 0.40	—————
Mousselines de Laine (plain & stripes), 24 yds. 31 in. ...	0.0965 ₱ 10 yds.	0.15½ @ 0.16 „ „	0.16½ @ 0.19½	4,300
„ „ „ (figured) ...	0.0965 „ „	————— „ „	0.25 @ 0.40	—————
SUGAR.				
White, Jimpah, No. 1 ...	{ 0.3215 ₱ picul.	\$7.40 @ 7.80	—————	{ Stock 9,000 piculs.
„ Kihpah, „ 2 ...		6.70 @ 7.20	—————	
„ Kokpah, „ 3 ...		6.20 @ 6.70	—————	
„ Kungfun, „ 4 ...		5.40 @ 6.00	—————	
„ Gnihpah, „ 5 ...		4.70 @ 5.20	—————	
Brown, Formosa, bags ...	{ new old	4.00 @ 4.20	—————	{ 85,000 piculs.
„ Amoy ...		3.80 @ 3.90	—————	
METALS &c.				
Iron, Flat and Round ...	0.0965 ₱ picul.	————— ₱ pc.	\$2.50 @ \$2.80	{ Stock 245,000 cases. No stock
„ Assorted Nail-rods, (assorted) ...	0.0965 „ „	————— „ „	2.30 @ 2.50	
„ Pig ...	0.0482 „ „	————— „ „	1.40 @ 1.60	
Lead, Pig ...	0.2572 „ „	————— „ „	5.80 @ 6.00	
Quicksilver ...	1.9292 „ „	————— „ „	—————	
Steel, Swedish ...	0.1930 „ „	————— „ „	3.80 @ 4.55	
Tin Plates ...	0.3251 ₱ 120 lbs.	————— ₱ box	4.80 @ 5.00	
Kerosene Oil ...	5 % ad valorem.	————— ₱ case	1.95 @ 2.00	
Raw Cotton ...	0.4019 ₱ picul.	————— ₱ pc.	10.00 @ 15.00	



## STAPLE EXPORTS.

TEA.—A fair amount of business has been done during the interval since the departure of last American mail at prices somewhat fluctuating, but the tendency has been decidedly downward for grades ranging from Good Medium and under. The better grades are for the present but little shown and native merchants apparently imagine they can establish a rise on current rates by adopting this line of policy, but quite enough high-cost teas have been shipped this season to supply the demand on the American market for fine teas and holders will have to submit to a sharp decline if they wish to induce business.

Settlements to date for this and Kobe amount to same 158,000 piculs against 176,000 piculs same date last season, but at present moment stocks in native dealers' hands are ample and should they show any inclination to meet buyers' ideas in accordance with the present state of the American tea market the deficiency in export would speedily disappear.

SILK.—During the first part of the period under review the market remained quiet and small transactions in hanks took place at a decline of fully 20 dollars per picul from last quotations. Latterly there is more demand for good medium and best silk and prices have again advanced and close firms as under. Nothing has been done in Simsbury an account of the high pretensions of holders. There has been a fair inquiry for Filatures and paroks have been sold at \$660 to \$690.

A few good and Kakedas have found buyers at \$620 to \$640.

Settlements are Hanks	...	...	...	...	...	...	300 Bales.
" Filatures and Re-reeled Maibashi	...	...	...	...	...	...	140 "
" Sendai and Hamatski	...	...	...	...	...	...	— "
" Kakedas	...	...	...	...	...	...	— "
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	440 Bales.

} Stock 130 bales.

TOTAL EXPORT FROM 1ST JULY TO DATE.							1880-81.	1881-82
London	...	...	...	...	...	...	326 Bales.	566 Bales.
France and Italy	...	...	...	...	...	...	353 "	739 "
United States	...	...	...	...	...	...	369 "	137 "
							1,048 Bales.	1,442 Bales.

DESCRIPTION.	PRICES PER PICUL.	REMARKS.
<b>SILK:—</b>		
Mayebashi; 1½ @ 2 Hanks	\$ 590 to — per picul.	
" 2	575 to 580 "	
" 2½	550 to 560 "	
" 3 and lower	500 to 535 "	
Kakedas; Good	— to — "	
Filatures; Best	690 to 700 "	
" Good	660 to 680 "	
Hamatski	660 to 680 "	
Sendai and Oshiu	— to — "	
<b>TEA:—</b>		
Common...	\$11.00 and under.	} Grades from Good Medium downward close weak.
Good Common ...	\$12.00 to \$14.00	
Medium ...	\$16.00 to \$20.00	
Good Medium ...	\$21.00 to \$24.00	
Fine ...	\$26.00 to \$30.00	
Finest ...	\$31.00 to \$34.00	
Choice ...	\$36.00 and upwards.	

## EXCHANGE.

The very small amount of private paper has caused rates to remain low. The demand for bank paper, though far in excess of private paper, has been comparatively small. Silver is quoted 51½.

ON LONDON.—Bank	.....4 months' sight.....	3s. 8½d.
" do.	.....Sight.....	3s. 8½d.
" Credits	.....6 months' sight.....	3s. 9d.
" do.	.....4 do. ....	3s. 8½d.
" PARIS.—Bank	.....Sight.....	4.66
" Credits	.....6 months' sight.....	4.78½
" SHANGHAI.—Bank	.....Sight.....	72½
" Private	.....10 days' sight.....	73

ON HONGKONG.—Bank	.....Sight.....	½ % disc.
" Private	.....10 days' sight.....	½ " "
" SAN FRANCISCO.—Bank	.....Sight.....	89½
" Private	.....30 days' sight.....	90½
" NEW YORK.—Bank	.....Sight.....	89½
" Private	.....30 days' sight.....	90½

Kinsatsn, 164½ per \$100

# THE JAPAN GAZETTE,

A FORTNIGHTLY SUMMARY OF THE

POLITICAL, COMMERCIAL, LITERARY, AND SOCIAL EVENTS OF JAPAN.

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## DIED.

At Hongkong, JAMES ELLIS, late Chief Engineer of the M. B. M. S. S. Co.'s service, aged 59 years. (By telegram.)

## Summary.

OUR last issue was dated August 11th. for transmission per P. M. S. S. *City of Peking* via San Francisco. The following mails have since been received:—

P. & O. S. *Malacca*, London July 1, arr. Aug. 15  
O. & O. S. *Oceanic*, San Fran. July 23, “ 15  
M. M. S. *Volga*, Marseilles July 10, “ 20

And the following have been despatched:—

P. M. S. *City of Peking*, San Francisco ..... Aug. 12  
M. M. S. *Monsaleh*, Marseilles ..... “ 14  
P. & O. S. *Malacca*, London ..... “ 20

THE position of the foreign press with respect to the Japanese government has been rather warmly discussed during the past fortnight. There appears to be a rooted idea, in the minds of some who ought to know better, that the latter both hate and fear the former. The *Japan Mail*, who evidently shares this belief and who has become notorious for his anti-foreign bias has re-echoed the views of the dormant *Tokio Times* so far as to recommend that every paper except itself ought to be either licensed or suppressed. This subject is freely discussed elsewhere.

Two of our contemporaries have been waging a fierce strife as to how many papers may or may not exist here. In the midst of this unseemly discussion, in which personalities were rather too freely exchanged, a new candidate for public favor sprang into existence. The young aspirant is styled *O Argus Jornal Litterario e Noticiozo*; it is printed in Portuguese and is to be devoted to the interests of that community. We wish it success.

As a general rule the settlement is fairly free from robberies, petty thefts, &c. During the past week however, we have been called upon to record one or two instances of obtuseness on the score of *meum* and *tuum*. This has naturally led to some close enquiries respecting our noble army of police, particularly as regards pay, vigilance, &c. Their salaries, as we have endeavoured to show in another column, are insufficient to secure efficiency or even honesty in the performance of duty.

FOREIGN residents—if there be any here—who are old enough to remember the railway mania at home in the years 1846-7 are not unlikely to witness a modified counterpart of it in this country before many years are over. The native journals report the commencement of two or three schemes and we have every reason to believe that there are many others in embryo. The Chinese—if we may take the fate of the Woo Sung line as a sample

—do not take kindly to railways; they are too conservative in their ideas to appreciate anything connected with Western civilization. The Japanese, perhaps, are not as liberal-minded as they might be in matters relating to trade and commerce; but having given railways a fair trial, they find the advantages of that species of inland transport and are inclined to continue the experiment.

A CORRESPONDENT signing himself “T.W.” who recently addressed some ably written letters to the *Economist* on the currency of Japan, has contributed a communication on the same subject to the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun*. We give a translation of it in another column as well as the commencement of our native contemporary's comments thereon. They contain matter of much interest and importance and we therefore commend them to the attention of our readers.

DURING the last few days there has been considerable interruption in the telegraphic communication between this country, China, Europe and America; but the Company—to their credit be it said—have been most prompt, energetic and fairly successful in their endeavours to repair the damages which their cables have sustained.

THE Japanese are becoming provident in their habits. Life insurance is evidently the order of the day amongst them. The Meiji Seimei Hoken Kwaisha (Life Assurance Co.) has recently been established, and during the first month of its existence upwards of three hundred persons applied for and obtained policies to the amount of 200,000 yen, the premiums on which amount to somewhere about 6,000 yen. Not a bad beginning this. If it only keeps up the association will soon become a very flourishing concern.

ELSEWHERE will be found a translation of some regulations published by the Japanese government on the storage and sale of kerosene which have caused feelings of something more than surprise in this settlement.

A TELEGRAM has been received announcing the approaching return of Sir Harry Parkes. The intelligence has given great satisfaction to foreign residents generally, amongst whom is deservedly popular. A proposition has been made to give him a public reception on his arrival here.

HIS Imperial Majesty the Mikado is still continuing his tour through distant parts of his dominions.

THE newly established Portuguese journal before referred to, does not hesitate to speak its mind very freely concerning the unsatisfactory condition of the Portuguese diplomatic and consular service, and of the consummate indifference displayed by that government towards the interest and welfare of its subjects resident in this part of the world.

## Leading Articles.

### THE FOREIGN PRESS.

ON December 6th, 1879, the *Tokio Times* referred to the freedom of the foreign press of Japan and suggested that as the Japanese government had the power to stop the passage of English newspapers through the post, and further to exercise their undoubted right of censorship and prohibition of unlicensed publication, they should employ the forces at their disposal to gag the *Japan Herald* and *Japan Gazette*, two journals specially mentioned as most obnoxious to all those who see in independence of thought, freedom of speech, and a resolute determination to expose trickery and oppression, the chief obstacles to their personal advantage; such newspapers being the natural enemies of those who would sacrifice the mass for the profit of a few individuals whose transactions can never bear the light, or succeed when brought before the bar of public opinion. What the *Tokio Times* was; the clique of which it was the unprincipled because paid month-piece; its policy of creating dissension and ill-will between Japanese and foreigner; and its envenomed hatred of everything honourably directed to the public good, are matters within the cognizance of all those who take the least interest in the efforts of this small community to arrive at a good understanding with the nation, and to cooperate heartily with the people for the common good. But the attitude of the *Japan Mail* is inexplicable. Only a few months ago its proprietor declared he was thoroughly independent, using that term in the sense of being unsubsidized, or improperly influenced by pecuniary or other venal conditions. This most unnecessary disclaimer has been followed by a series of notes and articles remarkable only for indecision and anti-foreign bias, the climax being reached in a note which echoes the opinion and assertions of the *Tokio Times*, namely, that every foreign newspaper, with the exception of the *Japan Mail*, ought to be either licensed or suppressed.

The arguments with which a conclusion so disgraceful to its author is supported, have been ably dealt with and disposed of by a contemporary in its issue of the 9th instant. What we have now to say is supplementary though not without importance.

There is a certain class in Japan consisting of hangers on of the government; persons formerly in official service, who, their nominal offices abolished, still cling to the skirts of that influence which was to enrich them at the expense of the community. In the days of darkness, when monopolies flourished, and the government, consequent upon the acts of numerous subordinates, had become a large trading company, the rings and cliques were in high feather. The commerce of Japan was to be exploited solely for their benefit. Large commercial transactions were to be entered into by them with money borrowed from the treasury of a country owing a heavy debt to its people which it was quite unable to liquidate. When losses arose or profits were realised, who bore the former, and who received the latter? Direct traders sprung up like mushrooms for the express purpose of carrying on a three-cornered exchange of currency into specie, and whose very existence depended upon the ignorance of the people regarding the nature and true character of their proceedings. The same hands, the same influences, were traceable

throughout. This false trade was no natural national movement. It was, like other things in Japan, held up for an example and encouragement to the very people who were being ruined by its effects. The handful of people who had thus gained ascendancy thought they had nothing to fear from foreigners, whose commercial competition among themselves effectually precluded unity of action, or from their countrymen, whom a long course of intimidation had effectually cowed. And they were right. They would at this day be masters of the situation were it not for a power they affected to despise and which they have since learned to fear. A portion of the foreign press from the first opposed a bold and resolute front to the abuses of the time. Articles more or less direct in their charges and sound in argument eventually attracted the attention of even the highest ministers of state, and led to inquiries culminating in reform eminently distasteful to the gang of monopolists who, to forward their own selfish objects, had no hesitation in holding up the foreign merchant as the primary cause of all the evils which affect this country, and as an object at once dangerous and hateful. How to enlist the foreign press, or rather one portion of it, on their side was a problem they could not solve though measures were resorted to which in a less venal country would be styled corrupt, but without success; they therefore seek the suppression of those obnoxious journals which have laboured honestly and faithfully for the interests of the general people, and in stern opposition to the people's natural foes, the monopolists and official traders; and in 1881, a British subject is found to recommend action towards the press which, if taken, would render the government ridiculous in the eyes of Europe and America, and do irreparable injury to their cause.

Happily, however, we know quite as much as the *Japan Mail* of the opinions held by the leading ministers of the empire on the tone of the foreign press. Its boldness often strikes them with surprise, but not with displeasure. They have no complaint to make about outspoken criticism, provided it be fair and justifiable. They infinitely prefer to take a hint from a newspaper than from a foreign minister in his official capacity; and no interference with the freedom of the foreign press is even thought of, much less contemplated. The people, on the other hand, owe a debt of gratitude to those journals which have supported their cause; which have advocated the development of production; extension of commerce; the abolition of all monopolies; a free coast service; unrestricted intercourse with foreign merchants; increased revenue and reduced expenditure; and that reform which must be adopted eventually to restore the finances to a sound footing. In advocating the cause of commerce we have advocated the emancipation of the people, and the inculcation of higher principles and truer incentives to industry than any that ever existed under the mildest feudalism of the most benevolent lord. The labour is bearing its good fruits; yet it has remained for the *Japan Mail* which, during the last four exciting years has done nothing not directly or indirectly prejudicial to the cause of commerce and the interests of the body of natives and foreigners, to argue upon what we are to infer is its own infamous conduct during the Satsuma rebellion, for the suppression of those journals which have consistently adhered to a policy the *Japan Mail* either does not understand or is incompetent to appreciate.—Aug. 13.

### KEROSENE OIL.

THE notification issued by the prime minister on the 13th instant, setting out sundry regulations for the sale of kerosene oil, has created much surprise in the foreign settlement. The notification was inserted in the native papers on the 14th instant, but in spite of the care with which these papers are usually examined, it escaped our attention until a translation appeared in the *Japan Herald* of the 16th instant.

The only points in this notification with which the public is concerned, are, that no oil which flashes below 120° Fahrenheit can be used for lamp purposes, and that the regulations will come into force on the 1st of January next. The kerosene oil trade began in 1873 or 1874. Prior to that date, the only method of lighting the poorer Japanese possessed was a small dish of bean or rape seed oil totally inadequate for any other purpose than to make darkness visible. With the introduction of kerosene sufficient good light to enable the artisan to add many hours to his day's labour was obtainable at so small a cost as to be inappreciable in comparison with the benefit derived from its use. The demand rapidly increased; and importation rose in amount from a gross sum of \$300,000 in 1874, to \$2,200,000 in 1879, and this notwithstanding a considerable fall in value. The business has been carried on during these years without any protest or objection on the part of the government as to the quality of the oil, or expressed wish that a test should be applied to it. At the present moment the stocks in the hands of importers and native dealers, together with the quantity on the way, are not far short of one million cases of the value of about \$2,000,000; and part of this oil, several cargoes, cannot arrive before March next. Respectable merchants engaged in the trade have found the only marketable oil is that which bears the test of 100° to 110° burning point. The legal standard for kerosene in England is 100°; the United States standard is from 100° to 110° in different states, 100° being the lowest test of the trade in New York; and oil that supports the latter test is perfectly safe when used in properly constructed lamps, and with the ordinary precautions which should be taken in handling such a substance. Kerosene bearing the brand of a respectable refiner, is certain to be free from adulteration.

The position in which importers will find themselves consequent upon the notification, is that their stocks, imported on the faith of a lawful trade with Japan, will be virtually unsaleable, a state of things we have reason to believe the government never contemplated as an effect of their notification. The right of the government to make whatever laws they think fit for their own country is not in question; but that the notification regarding kerosene is directly injurious to importers who have carried on the trade in good faith is not open to dispute. It involves an infringement of the conditions of the commercial treaties, as grave as though the government had declared that only a certain quality of cotton yarn should be used by the people, or that certain imported goods should not be used at all. The treaty provides that, subject to the payment of custom's duties, "Americans may freely buy from Japanese, and sell to them, any articles that either may have for sale, . . . and all classes of the Japanese may purchase, sell, keep or use, any articles sold to



"them by the Americans." This stipulation is repeated in all other treaties, and is expressed in even stronger terms in the Austria-Hungary treaty signed in 1869, which provides that "Austro-Hungarian citizens shall be at full liberty to import from their own or any other ports, and sell, at each of the open ports of Japan, all manner of merchandise not contraband." (Sec. VIII.) "All Japanese shall be at liberty to buy any articles . . . in the open ports of Japan without the intervention of any Japanese officer, and they may either keep or use the articles which they have thus bought, or resell them." (Sec. XIII.)

There is no intention to strain these or any other treaty stipulations into a denial of the right of the government to prohibit the importation of dangerous articles; but if the conditions have any meaning at all it is clear all articles of merchandise *not contraband*, may be imported and sold in Japan, the buyers being guaranteed from molestation in the use of them. Kerosene has been imported in large quantities for nine years past without any demur on the part of the government. The quality brought here has been uniformly good, and is that which would be accepted by any other nation, the Australian colonies being the solitary exception. Large quantities are imported into India and Java, both countries having warmer climates than Japan enjoys, without hindrance by the governments. The refining process is performed by men whose experience teaches them the proper measure of safety. It is stored in immense quantities in New York and Philadelphia and other large cities. With every shipment the exporter sends his certificate of burning test. Upon these grounds we rest the assertion that importers have acquired a prescriptive right to import kerosene of a lower test than 120° burning point; and that in doing so they have infringed no rule of modern commerce, or of that contemplated by this government when the treaties were signed: and they are fairly entitled to demand that any curtailment of this right shall be by consent of the powers having commercial treaties with Japan. If these rights are ignored, his excellency INOUE, minister for foreign affairs, will perceive that an abridgment of the trading privileges conferred by the treaties may take place at any moment by an independent act of the government declaring certain commodities to be contraband, a position the minister will scarcely be disposed to defend.

This is neither the place nor time to complicate the question at issue with considerations of the reasons which induced the government to issue the notification, but we may refer briefly to the contradictory character of governmental action with regard to kerosene oil and silk-eggs. When representations were made respecting the injurious influence the export of silk-eggs had upon the silk industry of this country, and the government were implored either to prohibit exportation altogether, or impose an inland duty of three to five dollars per card, the memorialists were informed that any such action would be contrary to the spirit of the treaties of commerce. The only nation that would venture to complain of the suspension of the silk-egg trade, is Italy, and a reply to the effect that the Japanese government had only exercised a wise discretion in stopping an export which protected Italian silk producers at the expense of the Japanese, would certainly have been considered reasonable,

and would have been supported by other powers. The total trade of Italy with Japan, exclusive of silk eggs, is not worth more than \$200,000 annually: yet Italy is entitled to every consideration under the treaty which Japan can accord to her. Kerosene is an American product, and the principal import from the United States. The value of Japanese trade with the United States is about sixteen million dollars annually, that country being the sole mart for tea, and the consumer of a large quantity of silk, admitting both products duty free. And yet America, a great commercial country, is not entitled to that consideration spontaneously accorded to Italy, which is not a great commercial country.

It seems, though we do not know that such is the case, that this notification has been issued without any previous consultation with the full cabinet, and without communication with the government of the United States, either through the Japanese minister in Washington, or the American minister in Tokio. No instructions have been received from the latter by the consul-general to notify American citizens of the acceptance of the kerosene regulations by the United States government. When the propositions for a new tariff were published at the end of 1879, we referred at some length to the unwisdom of levying 20 per cent. import duty on kerosene, pointing out, in the first place, that it was ungenerous towards the United States to tax her principal export to Japan: second, that no import has conferred a greater benefit upon this country than kerosene, which has enabled one-fourth of the day to be utilized which would otherwise be wasted for want of light: third, the anomaly of taxing the importation of a useful product not obtainable in quantities in Japan, and admitting coal, which is to be found in Japan, duty free: finally, that as kerosene is an indispensable aid to labour, any tax upon it is a tax upon labour. Those arguments apply with greater force to a decree which virtually inhibits the importation of kerosene, and if the 120° test be adhered to, injustice will be done on all sides, and a valuable trade materially interfered with. Of the unreasonable character of the notification the government will be able to judge from the direction of public opinion, which tends to the assertion that the object of the notification is not an ultra-regard for the safety of consumers of kerosene, but aims at a restriction of the trade which is supposed to add so much to the specie balance the merchants of Japan have to provide to defray the unfavourable balance of the nation's commerce.

The points which the government are very earnestly requested to reconsider with a view to a modification of the notification are:—

1. The reduction of the standard to 110° burning test.
2. The extension of the date at which the new rules shall take effect to January 1st, 1883.
3. The nomination of a qualified and thoroughly trustworthy expert to apply the proper tests in a reasonable manner.

When these arguments and requests are before the government we have no doubt every consideration will be given them; for they contain nothing unfair, unreasonable, or disadvantageous to this empire.

## Miscellaneous Articles.

### THE EASTERN RELATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES IN 1880.

THE volume composed of the diplomatic correspondence of the United States for the past year, although not behind those of other years in general interest, contains but little that is new about Japan. The President announces, in his annual message, that a convention for the reciprocal relief of shipwrecked seamen has been negotiated with Japan; and urges congress to make an appropriation for the erection of fire-proof buildings in Tokio for the use of the legation, the Japanese government having offered an eligible piece of land for the purpose. Mr. HAYES renews his recommendation that all sums due from the indemnity funds received some years ago from China and Japan to American citizens should be promptly paid, and the balances returned to the respective nations. This is, we believe, the fourth time that such an appeal has been made by a president to congress; twice by General GRANT and twice by Mr. HAYES. The interest taken by the former in the return of the Shimonoseki indemnity does not seem to have diminished since his retirement into private life, for we noticed some months since, in speaking to a reporter of the *New York Herald*, he expressed a wish for its return by the United States. The selection from Mr. BINGHAM's despatches, although doubtless interesting enough to some in the United States, will not be new here. Writing of the epidemic of cholera in 1879 the minister gives the figures for the whole year as 168,344 attacked, of whom 101,364 died, 47,885 recovered, and 19,065 remained under treatment. "I cannot resist the conviction," he adds, "that this roll of death would not have been nearly so great if the government of Japan had been aided and not resisted, as she was by certain foreign powers, in the laudable endeavour to prevent the spread of the contagion by land and maritime regulations. Now that the great army of victims has fallen, it is a gratification to me to know that our government seconded the efforts of this government to save its people from the pestilence which for months has wasted the lives of its people." It is to be regretted that some reasons for the "conviction" have not been given: after what has been said some trustworthy information would be acceptable about the origin of the epidemic of 1879; whether it was indigenous or imported; and if the latter in what manner. Further, when an official of Mr. BINGHAM's rank refers to the resistance met with by the Japanese government at the hands of certain foreign powers, fuller and more explicit information should be given. Innuendoes of this character are to be deprecated, for, while answering no good purpose, they create a thorough misapprehension. Copies of the reports of the education department, of the mint at Osaka, of the postmaster-general, also of sundry government regulations issued during the year, with their covering despatches, are also given.

The views of Mr. BINGHAM on all matters connected with this country are entitled to be received with respect, and we shall therefore give them as far as possible in his own words, without at present offering any comment of our own. In sending the report of the committee of the

Tokio Chamber of Commerce upon treaty revision, the document furnishes, he says, very strong reasons for such a revision of the treaties as Japan has asked for, and which the United States has approved. He quotes with approval the statement that the present treaty was concluded when Japan had no experience of foreign trade; and that the tariff then established "was fixed without any consideration of the interests that might be thereby affected." He also quotes the comparison drawn between the proportion of revenue derived from customs duties in Japan and in other countries. In Japan it is 2.7 per cent. of the total revenue, while Great Britain collects 25 per cent. of her total revenue from imposts upon imports, Canada 57 per cent., France 10 per cent., and the United States 50 per cent. Writing of the change which took place in the government in February last, by which most of the *sangi* resigned their portfolios, retaining only their functions as privy councillors, the American minister thinks that the change was made in obedience to the demand of the people that there should be a law-making power independent of the executive departments; and that it imported "that the chief advisers of his Majesty the Emperor appreciate the demand for a constitutional monarchy, a national legislature, and a system of civil policy which will combine centralized power with decentralized administration limited and regulated by general and local laws."

The correspondence, chiefly that of Mr. SEWARD, the late minister to Peking, with China is in every respect much more important and interesting than that with Japan. We obtain here a full account of the conferences held in Peking by the foreign representatives in the autumn and winter of 1879, with the subsequent negotiations with the Taung-li-Yamen on the following questions:—Taxation of foreign manufactures and foreign-owned domestic produce; official intercourse and judicial proceedings, more especially in the case of the Shanghai Mixed Court. It is known that these conferences and negotiations have as yet produced no useful result; but Mr. SEWARD shows himself in these letters, and in the laborious and able documents which he drew up for the assistance of his colleagues, a capable representative of his country. Two of his documents we intend either to reprint or to publish abstracts of them viz: those on the Shanghai Mixed Court, and on the general questions involved in the conferences of the committee appointed by the ministers to discuss the administration of justice in cases where foreign life or property is at stake. It would be impossible for us to discuss here, even briefly, such important questions as *lekin*, transit passes, judicial reform in China, or the many other important differences between the Chinese government and the envoys; they will all be found fully treated by Mr. SEWARD. In a full report on the Loochoo question he presents merely such considerations as tell in favour of the Chinese. The latter, he states, do not claim the archipelago as an integral part of their empire. They assert that it has paid tribute to China, and in this and other ways sustained a relationship-like dependency. They admit also a somewhat similar relation to Japan, and ask merely that the original status be reverted to. Writing towards the close of 1879, the envoy says; "with the Chinese the point of pride is tenaciously held. They believe that Japan, without prior consultation with them, and by methods pursued in a covert manner, has subjected to its control

a petty state, their dependency. It is deemed an affront to them in the face of their own people and the world, as well as an outrage upon the innocent islanders. So the Chinese do not take the matter at all quietly, and their resentment is of a sort which will last a long time." We have no doubt Mr. SEWARD's description of the state of Chinese feeling was accurate at the time; but it is only fair to remember that he was unacquainted with the very strong case of the Japanese; a case which rested on a right recognized all over the world, the right of conquest and possession. Another point of interest is the position taken up by the foreign ministers during the period of CHUNG-HOW's imprisonment. Mr. SEWARD's informal despatch to prince KUNG—"intended to indicate that the envoys are not regardless of what is passing, with a view, if possible, to save the life of the late ambassador, and to intimate that foreign powers cannot disregard the question of humanity which is involved and the effect of this or other hostile demonstrations upon our general interests"—seems to us a model of what such a document should be under very delicate and difficult circumstances.

The views of an official of Mr. SEWARD's ability and experience in the East on the vexed question of the position foreign officials should adopt towards laws, ordinances, rules or regulations issued by the governments of Japan and China, will be read with interest. He thinks that the right of the Chinese to make rules in all matters affecting their sovereignty is undeniable; but he holds that the foreign envoys have a right to scrutinize all such rules when they affect foreigners, and to object to them if they are found in contravention of treaty stipulations, or suggest their withdrawal or modification, if they appear burdensome or unnecessary. He further thinks that, as he holds this view, he might without offence endeavour to lead the Chinese to first show such regulations to the foreign envoys in order that the latter may state whether they are likely to object to them on the score of infringing some treaty right. This seems a very moderate request, and is quite different from the position sometimes taken up that no Chinese regulation shall be binding on foreigners except it is notified to them, and approved by their own authorities.

The correspondence between the department of state and the Chinese legation in Washington is almost wholly occupied with the case of the *Ho-chung*, a Chinese steamer which entered San Francisco during the year. The treasury department at first demanded tonnage dues and duties at alien rates, while the Chinese urged that the ship should be accorded the same privileges as are conceded to vessels of other nations having treaty relations with the United States. Ultimately, an assurance having been given that no discriminating duties are levied upon American vessels in Chinese waters, the vessel was accordingly relieved from such dues by the President's proclamation.

It is reported that at Kagoshima twenty-two persons were attacked by cholera during the five days from July 31st to August 3rd, of whom seven died, and that there is a prospect of the disease being further spread. From Kumamoto ken it is also reported that thirty-five persons have been attacked during the fifteen days from the 14th to the 28th of last month, of whom twelve died.

## THE KAITAKUSHI JOB.

A JAPANESE newspaper recently assailed this journal for having published a report to the effect that H. E. SANJO, prime minister, and H. E. TERASHIMA, ex-minister of foreign affairs, had procured the imperial consent to their purchase of the several industries erected at enormous cost by the colonization department. The newspaper in question affecting, as is its wont, superior knowledge denounced the rumour as "one of the wildest absurdities that has ever ornamented the columns of a vernacular journal." As this contradiction emanates from a source open to the utmost suspicion of *mala fides* when the real interests of the people are affected, it will be well to examine the matter a little more fully than has so far been done. The *Nichi Nichi Shinbun*, generally known as the official organ of the government, in its issue of the 10th instant, contained an article headed "Proceedings of the Kaitakushi," in which the several reports are summarised and commented on. Of that article we make the following abridgment:—

Is it true the government have decided to sell the properties of the Kaitakushi to the Kwansei Boyeki Shokwai? We do not and can not believe the rumour. At first, when the supposed intention of the Kwansei Boyeki Shokwai became public, the *Mai Nichi Shinbun* severely commented upon its action and that of the government. Of course we held the same opinion as our contemporary, but were silent because convinced that such a scheme must fail. This rumour was quickly followed by another to the effect that the prime minister suddenly left Tokio, followed his Majesty whom he overtook, and succeeded in obtaining the imperial consent to the application made by the Kwansei Boyeki Shokwai for the purchase of these public properties. This rumour we also refused to believe, but the *Mai Nichi*, *Hochi*, *Ohoya*, and *Akebono*, newspapers, at once inveighed in strong terms against the proceedings of the officials in this matter, all acting on the same information; and as their conclusions are allowed to remain without contradiction we are compelled to accept their report as true. It is unquestionable that the Kaitakushi has expended more than ten million yen, but as that is a thing of the past we are inclined to leave it alone; there is, however, no justification for disposing of the property to the Kwansei Boyeki Shokwai for so small a sum and in such an extraordinary manner. We may dismiss the matter from further notice; but we can give no answer to those who ask whether the abolition of the Kaitakushi does or does not amount to this, namely, that the institution remains unchanged save in ownership from government to private; its former officials being amalgamated with the Boyeki Shokwai.

Thus the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun*, a journal which has every facility for acquiring information, quoting four other journals, adopts the story that the prime minister of Japan, either for himself or out of purely disinterested regard for the Kwansei Boyeki Shokwai (a so-called company consisting of one chief who is already a debtor to the state for a large sum, and another person whom we will not now name), did prefer a most improper request which has, if the facts are as stated by the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun*, involved the Crown in a transaction hotly denounced by the people, and of the merits of which the sovereign must have been wholly ignorant. In constitutional England the cabinet forms

the fourth power of the state. In the ordinary administration of the government the sovereign personally is, so to speak, behind the scenes; performing indeed, many personal acts by the sign manual or otherwise; but, in each and all of them, covered by the counter-signature or advice of ministers who stand between the august personage and the people. This is right and natural, for in every free state, for every public act, some one must be responsible; and the question is, "Who shall it be?" The British constitution answers "The minister, and the minister exclusively."<sup>(1)</sup> Japan is not a constitutional country. The MIKADO is supreme ruler. The duties of the cabinet are consequently even more onerous and responsible than in England. The president of the cabinet is H. E. SANJO, and upon him the heavy responsibility rests of having advised the sovereign to consent to a transaction which would in England be forthwith followed by an impeachment of the minister.

This may be considered language unsuitable for the columns of a newspaper published in a country where freedom of opinion on public events is not tolerated; but those who hold this view must remember that the native papers have announced the sale of valuable state property for a purely nominal sum, and in a secret and extraordinary manner; and that the imperial sanction to it is asserted to have been procured by the prime minister of the empire. This report will go forth to the world; and it is advisable the criticism it will evoke should be anticipated here while it is yet possible to cancel all that has been done and restore the position prior to the ill-omened visit of H. E. SANJO to the MIKADO.

Some opinion may be formed of the cost of the property acquired by the Kaitakushi by reference to the grants made to the Yezo colonization commission. The total sum ascertained to June 30th, 1879, was 15,179,933 yen, inclusive of a loan of 2,500,000 yen. Additional allowances to June 30th, 1881, are set out in the estimates as 3,947,373 yen; or in all 18,527,306 yen. In addition to the income derived from the state, the Kaitakushi has, during its administration, levied taxes on the people and imposts on their produce, the amount of which is not known as no accounts have ever been published. The population is only 211,304, so that the expenditure per head has been 88 yen; a very large sum in comparison with the gross value of the export trade which the customs returns show does not exceed 6,000,000 yen in thirteen years, or less than one-third of the government grant alone.

What the money has been expended on no one knows; but it is reasonable to infer that much of it was sunk in the manufactories which have now been sold. Their cost is variously estimated at anything between three and fourteen millions; their real cost can only be matter of conjecture. We are, however, assured that without any invitation to the public to purchase, the entire property has been privately sold for 300,000 yen, payable in thirty years by instalments without interest. These terms seem to surpass belief. Had the whole colonization scheme proved a dead failure, the materials of the buildings, the machinery, tools, and stock in trade, were worth more for removal. So far from the Hokkaido having disappointed the government, the contrary is the case, for we find one of the ministers of the highest rank, referring to the Hokkaido so recently as

November last year, saying—"The number of immigrants increases annually, while its productions tend to develop in a corresponding ratio, though it is still far from being completely brought under cultivation, as the following statistics show. If its present rate of growth receives no check, it will one day rival the old country in the amount of its productions . . . . Before the restoration no progress had been made with the colonization of the Hokkaido, but since that event that duty has been entrusted to a commission endowed with absolute powers, and the productions now exhibit a daily growing tendency to develop, postal communication has been established, fisheries and agriculture are encouraged, the number of immigrants has annually increased, and native merchants from the mainland, gradually appreciating the advantages, are extending the trade with 'the island' (vide H.E. OKUMA'S *General View of Financial Policy*, pp. 27 and 29) The Japanese government are in the position of having expended an immense sum on the development of those industries for which purpose the colonization commission was founded; and at the very moment that success becomes possible, and a prospect opens of recouping the money the treasury can ill spare, the factories and works are disposed of to a private company, at the request of the prime minister, for a sum, and on terms of payment, which reduce the sale to a gift. The resolve to dispose of these properties may have been wise; we do not argue that point, nor object to anything but the manner in which the transaction has been carried out. If no tenders were received after proper notice had been given, the government would have been free to entertain the proposal of the Boyeki Shokwai, but not until its terms had been made public and sufficient time had elapsed to warrant the belief that there would be no advance. This would have been justifiable, and would also have relieved the government of their complicity in what men of business call a piece of indefensible jobbery, which no persuasion or cajolery can induce them to accept as any other than a colourable alienation of the people's property.—Aug. 13.

## Reviews.

### COLONEL GORDON IN CENTRAL AFRICA.

RARELY do notices of books not directly connected with China or Japan find a place in these columns, but no excuse is required for introducing to those to whom Colonel GORDON'S name is a household word, the record of his actions in Southern Egypt. The hero of the story<sup>(1)</sup> will ever be closely associated with the greatest empire in the East: his character and renown are marked by such uncommon features that everything throwing light upon them, or giving us assistance in comprehending them, will be read with more than usual gratification by all who admire true simplicity, courage, and unswerving devotion.

A recent reviewer does not by any means exaggerate in the summing up of a short critique on this work. He says:—

(1) *Colonel Gordon in Central Africa*, 1874-1879. From original letters and documents. Edited by George Birkbeck Hill, D.C.L. London: Thos. De la Rue & Co. Yokohama: Kelly & Co. 1881.

"How he prospered, how he fared, what he felt, and did, and ambitioned, are all told in the story that Dr. Birkbeck Hill has put together from his letters. It is one of the most interesting and remarkable of books, for it brings one face to face with one of the most interesting and remarkable of men. With his unconquerable will, his dauntless intrepidity, his cheerful mysticism, his prodigious tact, his genius for command and for administration, the captain of the ever-victorious army shines out most gloriously as one of the most astonishing figures of this or any other time."<sup>(2)</sup>

The chief work of the editor was one of selection. Colonel GORDON is evidently a copious and diligent correspondent: during his five years in Egypt he wrote between three and four hundred private letters to intimate friends,—

They are closely written, and they very often run to great lengths: there are some, indeed, that fill twenty and even thirty pages of note paper. They are his journal, as more than once he reminded his correspondents.

Dr. HILL decided, and we should be grateful to him for his decision, that it would not be wise to make a continuous narrative of his own from them, but that the best plan would be to leave Colonel GORDON to tell his own story, the editor's chief work clearly being to select and piece together the proper passages. In doing this it is curious to remark Dr. HILL was without Colonel GORDON'S assistance:—

"I have not the honour of Colonel Gordon's acquaintance, and I was told from the first that he would neither see me nor correspond with me till the book was finished and before the world. Neither, too, would he read my manuscript, or the proofs of my work as they passed through the press. I have therefore neither seen nor corresponded with the man whose Memoir I have sketched, and whose Letters I am editing."

Under these circumstances the whole responsibility rests with the editor, and in no wise with Colonel GORDON or his friends.

The substance of the introductory memoir is known to most of us, for it is to be found in a brilliant work by the late Andrew Wilson entitled "*The Ever-Victorious Army*," which we commend to the perusal of the younger men among us who are, to their irreparable loss as they will eventually find, sacrificing knowledge to pleasure. The great active experience of Colonel GORDON in China lends much weight to his opinions concerning the military power of that empire, and it is without surprise we find him writing from Africa to a brother officer in England in 1875, when there was prospective war consequent upon the Yunnan difficulty,—

"With respect to China we may rest without fear. *They will never stand if their communications are cut.* However good their arms may be they will never take care of them. Even with all my care, I never could get them to clean them."

Colonel GORDON'S work in Egypt was to put an end to the slave trade as carried on by Arabs in the Soudan. Various efforts had been made for this purpose but they had been attended with only a modified success. At last the Egyptian government determined, as a temporary measure, to claim as a state monopoly all the trade of those regions with the outside world. This, it was believed, was the only way of stamping out the slave trade which was carried on by force of arms against the law; and when this end

(1) Et. Hon. W. E. Gladstone.

(2) *Truth*, June 30th.



was attained trade should again be free to all. And although in carrying out his work Colonel GORDON encountered the difficulties incidental to living in these savage regions,—want of food and shelter, fever, &c.—he refers but little to them, while he constantly complains of the hostility and obstacles which were put in his way by the Egyptian officials themselves. He thought, almost from the first, that the expedition was a sham to catch the attention of the English people. He blamed not the KHEDIVÉ, but NUBAR Pasha, for this. Here we may digress for a moment to quote the story of his appointment as told in the Memoir:—

"In September 1872, he met Nubar Pasha, the famous Egyptian minister, at the British embassy in Constantinople. Sir Samuel Baker's term of office as governor of the tribes which inhabit the Nile Basin would come to an end in the following year, and Nubar wished to find a successor, and something more than a successor. He asked Colonel Gordon whether he knew of any officer of the Engineers who would be willing to fill the vacancy. The Colonel could not at once give an answer, but in July 1873, he informed Nubar by letter that he himself would accept the post, if on the Khedive's own application to the English government for his services permission were granted. A favourable answer being received he returned to England, and at the close of the year started for Cairo. In his interview with the Khedive he was told to fix his own terms. He took £2000 a year.

'I have laboured somewhat in my time,

And not been paid profusely,'

he might well have taken as his proud motto when he brought the first term of his long task to a close."

When Colonel GORDON reached his government and saw the devastation and misery wrought by the slave traders, he threw his whole heart and soul into the work, and almost forgot the intrigues and disappointments of Cairo. To convey some conception of the slave trade we may quote both from Sir SAMUEL BAKER and Colonel GORDON. The former first saw the Victoria Nile in 1864: he saw it again in 1872, when he wrote thus:—

"It is impossible to describe the change that has taken place since I last visited this country. It was then a perfect garden, thickly populated and producing all that man could desire. The villages were numerous; groves of plantains fringed the steep cliffs on the river's bank, and the natives were neatly dressed in the bark cloth of the country. The scene has changed! All is wilderness! The population has fled! Not a village is to be seen! This is the certain result of the settlement of Khartoum traders. They kidnap the women and children for slaves, and plunder and destroy wherever they set their feet."

Colonel GORDON wrote, as he went up the Saubat river:—

"Not a soul to be seen for miles; all driven off by the slavers in years past. You could scarcely conceive such a waste or desert."

It was and is, Colonel GORDON thinks, the wholesale depopulation of districts which makes slavery in Africa such a curse; and the numbers killed, or who perish in the collection of slaves, are enormous. For five years, with a brief interval of rest in England, he laboured all over his vast provinces to abolish this horrid traffic; and to utterly uproot it by making roads and other means of communication by which troops could be moved rapidly. During his term of office as

governor-general of Soudan he released tens of thousands of slaves; but it is saddening to hear, on his own authority, that all his labour has been in vain. Thwarted while on the spot by high Egyptian officials, receiving but lukewarm support from the central government, with soldiers and subordinates whose hearts were not in their work and who constantly longed for the flesh-pots of Cairo and Alexandria, it is hardly surprising that when his powerful personal weight was withdrawn, things should resume their original course, and the slave trade become as flourishing as ever. The magnitude of his task can be gathered from the area of his government. The Soudan, which he governed as satrap for three of his five years in Egypt, is 1640 miles in length, with an average breadth of about 660 miles; a superficies greater than that of the British islands, Portugal, Spain, France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, and Austria taken together. Among other difficulties with which he had to contend was the anomalous state of Egyptian law respecting slavery and the slave trade. At one time he had four separate sets of instructions for dealing with the traders. The KHEDIVÉ ordered all slave dealers and persons taking slaves, to be put to death. There was the convention between England and Egypt for the suppression of the slave trade, which calls slave taking "robbery with murder." He had another decree of the KHEDIVÉ ordering the crime to be punished with from five months to five years imprisonment; and he had, fourthly, an order from the grand vizier instructing him that the sale and purchase of slaves in Egypt is legal; and we read with interest how he trusted entirely to his own sound common sense to carry him through the conflicting general orders to the humane and faithful execution of his vast duties, in the performance of which we find him, in the years 1877, 1878 and 1879, in addition to his military and administrative duties, riding 8,490 miles on camels and mules.

It is a relief to turn away from the almost abortive labours and trials of a great and noble nature in its herculean fight against lying, corruption, treachery, cowardice, indolence, and barbarity, to more personal and pleasant topics. In a letter from one of Colonel GORDON's brothers to the editor we find the following explanation of a passage on page 59 "Never shall I forget what I got when I scored out the inscription on the gold medal," eminently characteristic of a man who loves neither money nor reward:—

"At the close of the Taiping rebellion the Empress of China sent to Colonel GORDON a large gold medal with a suitable inscription commemorating his services. When the cotton famine was at its height in Lancashire, Colonel Gordon, not having money at his disposal, defaced the inscription, and sent the medal to Canon Miller anonymously for the relief of the starving operatives."

As we turn over the pages we find this brave and simple man surrounded by a sick and dying staff, drawing consolation and support from the unfailing source:—

"I have done all my accounts with the government, and am now, as far as the things of the world are concerned, ready to depart; but something tells me I shall not do so yet. The intense comfort of no fear, no uneasiness about being ill is very great, and more than half the cause of good health. No comfort is equal to that which he has who has God for his stay; who believes, not in words but in fact, that all things are ordained to happen

and must happen. He who has this has already died, and is free from the annoyances of this life. I do not say that I have attained to this perfect state, but I have it as my great desire."

Then we find this man, to whom energy and action are a second nature, frequently picturing to himself a life of ease when retirement should come at last. He would go home; he would go to bed and never rise until noon-day; he would never walk more than a mile; he would never go on a railway journey; he would never accept an invitation to dinner; he would have oysters for lunch! And we occasionally meet with such exclamations as,—“Oh, how I should like a good dinner.”

A full account of his acceptance of the post of private secretary, his resignation and subsequent journey to China, is given at the end of the volume. Writing to him while in Egypt, LI HUNG CHANG said:—

"The benefit you have conferred on China does not disappear with your person, but is felt throughout the regions in which you played so important and active a part. All these people bless you for the blessing of peace and prosperity they now enjoy."

In the Russian difficulty this old and tried friend was again appealed to by China and readily responded. His leave was first refused by the British government, then granted. On arrival in China he telegraphed July 27th, 1880;—"I have seen LI HUNG CHANG, and he wishes me to stay with him. I cannot desert China in her present crisis, and would be free to act as I think fit. I therefore beg to resign my commission in her Majesty's service." The resignation was, happily, not accepted, but his leave was cancelled. His advice throughout was for peace. In this he sided with LI HUNG CHANG, and opposed the court party. A perusal of the facts connected with this journey will dissipate the many misleading rumours which floated about the East at that time; and if it can not place Colonel GORDON on a higher pedestal than he stands at present, it certainly will not diminish in the slightest degree his name and reputation in China.

The appendix in which Colonel GORDON discusses the questions connected with "Foreigners in the service of Oriental States," will be read for the sound advice and information it contains. He takes Egypt as a type; but claims that what he says applies to Turkey and China, and indeed to all existing oriental countries possessed of independence. He says:—

"It can be easily understood how hateful to any people is the occupation of high places by strangers, however good or honest they may be, unless the country is truly annexed by the government of those strangers. . . . Add to this the general desire to peculation which exists, not only among the upper, but in the lower strata. All love muddy water; none wish it clear."

Putting aside any calculation as to reasons which may induce impecunious men, men desirous of clap-trap reputations, or men who wish to acquaint themselves thoroughly with the people, habits, resources, &c., of an eastern country, he thinks that the only reason which justifies a foreigner entering oriental service is a desire to benefit his fellow-creatures, and to raise them in the scale of civilization. During his period of service, a foreigner should entirely abandon his relations with his native land:—

"He should resist his own government, and those of other powers, and keep intact the

sovereignty of the oriental state whose bread he eats. . . . and his advice should be sealed by what is universally right throughout the world; and, secondly, by what is best for the oriental state he serves."

His warnings and advice to those who are now engaged in, or who may hereafter engage themselves in the service of eastern nations, is so much to the point, so forcible, and so applicable to some of our relations east of the Mediterranean, that we propose to give them in full.

1. Any foreigner entering the service of an oriental state may be sure that no native official will ever be punished, except in name, for anything he may do; he may be certain also that, unless he can hold his own by his own right hand, he will fall; and that it is not in the power, even if it is in the inclination (?) of the ruler of that state to help him.

2. A foreigner cannot go one-tenth as far in the use of—or rather abuse of—his authority as a native; the people will put up with the one, but not with the other, if he exceeds a certain limit.

3.—A foreigner, seeing axiom No. 1, is obliged, if he is to hold his place, to depart from European rules, and use, to some extent, arbitrary (i.e. oriental) means for defence and offence.

4.—A foreigner, if conjointly charged with natives to carry out any work, may rest assured that his great enemies, and most formidable, are those with whom he takes counsel, and that they are ready to be crushed if they can bring him down with them, and he may generally be sure that the ruler is not likely to do more than regret (?) his fall.

5. A foreigner, to succeed, must so regulate his affairs that no gain but sheer loss to the many would be incurred by his fall (I mean tangible gain—patriotic sentiments, or advantage to the country, or glory, are sentiments which never weigh in the scale. Actual coin is Allah, and 'there is none but' it). When men reason thus then fomenters of trouble find no hearers; but neglect this, and every one is ears. This is very natural and indigenous to the East. When a foreigner has so regulated affairs, that his fall will be a loss to the many, then he may afford to look his enemies in the face, and not need the smile of the Sultan or Ameer.

Of the forcible truth of these views our readers are the best judges. Long residence in the East is fast bringing home to the minds of Westerners the unwelcome truth that between the two peoples there is nothing in common. On one side there are energy, steadfastness of purpose, courage, much honesty, and an earnest desire to promote the general good: on the other side is the antithesis; indolence, vacillation; timidity, corruption, and a keen though concealed anxiety to promote personal interests at the expense of the many. Oil and water are not more antagonistic than Easterns and Westerns; and without the intervention of some agent their combination is equally impossible.

And now we must unwillingly take leave of Colonel Gordon and his letters. Whoever reads the book will arise from its perusal a better and stronger being, with a higher appreciation of the innate nobility of mankind. Throughout the book there is a vein of strongly marked religious feeling finding relief in many pious and reverent utterances; noticeable not only here but in everything that Colonel Gordon has ever written or done. It is not for us to speak on this solemn

subject. The heart of a man is a closed book to all but himself, and none can ever hope to truly understand the secret springs of action which carry men on through fire and flood and all other earthly difficulties, straight and surely to the goal they have resolved upon attaining. We re-echo Dr. HILL in the concluding lines of his preface. "When we see a man undergoing year after year all that Colonel Gordon has undergone; when we see him in journeyings often, in perils of water, in perils of robbers, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the wilderness, in weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst; when we see him, besides those things that are without, bearing that which came upon him daily, the care of a great government; when we see him moreover, bearing all these great sufferings and this vast burden steadfastly and patiently, we put to ourselves the question that was of old put to Milton in his blindness:—'What supports me dost thou ask?' In these letters the answer is given. We may not, perhaps, hold with the writer—his thoughts may not be our thoughts. The answer, nevertheless, cannot but be of the highest interest to every thoughtful man. We see one who 'by manifold struggles feels his feet on the Everlasting Rock,' and who lets us see how he has made sure his footing."

#### SKETCHES IN SHANGHAI.\*

WE have thankfully to acknowledge the receipt of a copy of the work specified in the foot-note below. The paper is good; the printing excellent, and the general style and "get up" of the book all that can be desired.

The subject-matter consists of a series of descriptive articles which originally appeared in the *Shanghai Mercury*. They are all written in a lively, flowing strain; the language is chaste and the sentences are well turned. The volume reflects great credit on Mr. MACFARLANE and indicates him to be a writer much above the average.

The description of the Mixed Court is remarkably good and calculated to give strangers to the "Model Settlement" a fair idea how "even-handed justice" is impartially administered between Celestials and "Foreign Barbarians"—as Europeans are politely styled by the Chinese. It appears that CHEN, the Chinese magistrate of this court, is a mandarin of the seventh order, subordinate to Moh, the Che-hsien or district magistrate of Shanghai. "The foreign assessors (i.e. consuls) sit on the bench with CHEN; they have judicial powers, and their special duty is to look after the interests of the foreign plaintiffs, and to ensure the bye-laws of the settlements being enforced upon the natives, by the adequate punishment of those who violate them." The author's account of the hall of justice and forms of procedure is unique, and we much regret our inability to give extracts from it. Mr. BRADLAUGH, and those who consider affirmation equivalent to oath-taking, will do well to ponder the following, by which it appears that the Chinese "swear not at all," or are what MARK TWAIN would probably call "rigid economisers of truth":—

"In this court there is no such thing as perjury, for the Chinese 'swear not at all.' Lying therefore is unrestrained; [(reduced

to a science would be a more correct definition) "the biggest liar has most chance of winning his case against a neighbour who is conscientious, or another who tells lies but is not 'cute enough in the invention of them; the criminal who has the best chance of getting off, is the one who tells most lies himself, or who can hire other liars better than himself to speak on his behalf. And though the lies are found out, as they often are, being too glaring or not cunningly devised, the prisoner is none the less thought of because he did his level best as a liar; he will only lose his case because he did not do it well enough. If a Chinaman is in a fix, either civil or criminal offences bringing trouble on his head, he can for a slight consideration, in the shape of a few hundred cash, or a few dollars if the case is worth it, get any number of his guileless brethren to declare that black is white, or white black,—either way as the dollars go."

The foregoing, after all, is only a sample of what may be met with in courts of justice throughout the East. The system of hiring false witnesses is carried on to a fearful extent amongst natives of India, especially amongst the pariah Klings or Madrasses who emigrate in large numbers to the Straits Settlements. Klings would put to shame the very Father of Lies; in fact a Kling never tells the truth—except when he cannot think of anything else. We now come to a specimen of the manner in which fines are sometimes paid in the "Mixed Court" of Shanghai:—

"One of the smartest tricks we have heard of being done by a prisoner at this court, was when three or four men were convicted of some paltry offence, and each of them fined 20 cents, with the alternative of three days' imprisonment. All the prisoners, except one, made great lamentations, and tried to excite great compassion by their cries and tears; but one got up from his knees at once, as soon as he heard the sentence, boldly stepped forward to the magistrate's bench, tabled his wealth in payment of the fine, and hurried out of court. A few minutes afterwards, but when it was too late, his 20 cent piece was found to be a brass one."

Those who take an interest in matters connected with the turf will find two very readable articles in "A Morning at the Grand Stand: and a Sale of Griffins" and "The Mafoos' Race, or the Native Scramble." Those whose proclivities lie in the direction of the stage will find much amusement in reading Mr. MACFARLANE's account of the performances at a Chinese theatre. One often reads with wonder and amazement of the fabulous sums expended, say at Covent Garden or Drury Lane, on the scenic effects of Christmas pantomimes, but the Chinese economise in that matter by having no scenery at all and by trusting to the fertile imagination of spectators to supply the deficiency. The comedies, tragedies, historical plays, &c., &c., are fearful and wonderful things enough to make defunct English playwrights from Shakespeare to Dion Boucicault turn in their graves and to cause living dramatists to tear their hair with vexation. The orchestra, always an important element, is not likely to entrance one with the "Concord of sweet sounds." Our author's description of it is particularly humorous but too long for insertion.

They have jinrikisha in Shanghai, but they are not an unqualified success. The

\* *Sketches in the Foreign Settlement and Native City of Shanghai.* By W. Macfarlane. Reprinted from the *Shanghai Mercury*. Shanghai, 1891.

Chinese coolies are said to be far inferior to those in Japan. Whether Chinese coolies will go well or not, depends very much on the fare.

"If he has a native in his vehicle, from whom he will only get a few cash, the coolie goes as if he were in a funeral procession; if he has a foreigner and the foreigner has a stick, the coolie will go at the rate of seven or eight miles an hour."

There are other noteworthy articles on Chinese printers, sign boards, Chinese boys and Chinese police. "The City of Shanghai" and a "Trip on the Yang-tse-Kiang" are masterpieces of topographical writing.

In addition we can only say that we have spent a very pleasant hour or two over Mr. MACFARLANE'S book, and we can therefore safely recommend it to the favourable consideration of general readers.—Aug. 13.

## Reports.

### THE U. S. S. "ALERT'S" EXPLORATIONS.

On the 28th ultimo we published a full and comprehensive account of the surveying operations of the United States gun-boat *Alert* up to her first return to the Bonin islands for coaling purposes on the 16th of May, the particulars of which were kindly placed at our disposal by the executive officer, Mr. D. Mahan. Through the courtesy of the same gentleman we are enabled to give a further report of the explorations of the gun-boat, which have resulted in determining that many more of the dangers marked on the British admiralty charts do not exist.

At noon on the 23rd May the *Alert* weighed anchor; and after clearing Hillsborough island her head was turned south with the object of searching for a doubtful reef or rock called Valetta, and marked on the chart as situate in 21 degrees north latitude and 143 degrees east longitude, distant south of the Bonins about three hundred and seventy miles. Early on the morning of the 26th the steamer arrived in the neighbourhood of the suspected danger. A sharp look-out was kept aloft and on deck as the vessel slowly passed through the spot where the reef was supposed to be. Soundings were taken which resulted in bottom being found in the neighbourhood of two thousand fathoms, clearly indicating that the Valetta reef was nothing worse than a scare-crow.

In answer to a question as to the probable cause of so many rocks and islands being placed on the British admiralty charts which were proved by the *Alert's* explorations to be non-existent, Mr. Mahan replied that the majority were reported originally by the masters of Spanish merchantmen and placed on the Spanish charts, from which they were transferred to the British admiralty charts and remain there to this day without having been verified; and it was for the purpose of determining whether these dangers did or did not exist that took the *Alert* into those waters. Mr. Mahan attributed the errors of the Spanish merchantmen to badly rated chronometers or to the floating of masses of whales' food on the top of the water, which, without a close examination, might readily be mistaken for a reef.

Having traversed the ocean in the neighbourhood of the supposed Valetta reef from

the morning of the 26th to midnight of the 27th without finding anything, the *Alert* gave up the search as useless, and shaped a course further south, under easy sail, to search for the Florence shoal, set down on the charts as situate in latitude 18 deg. north longitude 143.30 east. Surveying was commenced on the morning of the 30th May and continued without intermission until midnight of the 30th, when, finding nothing, Commander Huntington ordered the vessel to proceed in search of a shoal without any name, marked "doubtful" on the charts in lat. 16.30. N. and long. 143.15 E.

Surveying operations had scarcely been commenced when Lieut. Hunter, executive officer, was taken suddenly ill and the vessel in consequence had to return to the Bonins there to take in coal to enable her to bring the invalid to Yokohama. On her way back to the Bonins the *Alert* passed through the spot indicated on the charts as Britomart reef, and cut a passage through the supposed Lindsay islands. A deep sea sounding was taken in the spot where the latter were supposed to be, resulting in bottom being found at a depth of 2,500 fathoms. The supposed position of the Euphrosyne rock was again passed over, and the vessel reached Port Lloyd at 3 p.m. on the 7th June. A number of men were engaged to coal ship as expeditiously as possible, and at 8 p.m. on the 8th a start was made for Yokohama, the steamer passing in sight of Ponsaffin and Smith's islands.

In the meantime Lieut. Hunter had been gradually sinking, and when the vessel was off Aogasima, the unfortunate officer died.

The *Alert* reached Yokohama at 11 p.m. on the 11th June, and on the following day Lieut. Hunter was buried.

The necessarily hard work and anxiety had also told on Commander Huntington's health, and during the *Alert's* stay in Yokohama Commander Cotton of the *Monocacy* exchanged vessels with Commander Huntington, and at 10 a.m. on Sunday of June 19th all hands were set to work to haul the anchors and the *Alert* once more stood down Yedo bay on her way back to the Bonin islands.

On her first trip to the Bonins the *Alert* had been roughly handled by a severe gale, therefore when at 2.30 p.m. of the day she left Yokohama the barometer went down very low and there was every indication of a cyclone, the ship was put about and run for Tatiyama, bay where it was resolved to weather the approaching gale. However, though it rained heavily, the force of wind was not very great, and at 10.30 a.m. on Wednesday, June 22nd, with a rising barometer, the vessel was got under weigh and proceeded on her voyage, arriving at Port Lloyd, after a pleasant run, at 4 p.m. on the 25th.

The ship's bunkers having been well stocked with coal, and fifty tons taken on deck, the *Alert* again weighed anchor on the 1st July, shaping a course for the Farallone de Pajaros, the most northern of the Ladrone or Marianna group, and an active volcano, which was sighted soon after daylight on the 4th July bearing about twenty-four miles away.

At sunrise the vessel was decked out in all the bunting she possessed in honour of the day. There was no holiday for Jack afloat, however, as the day was spent in taking observations and soundings.

The volcano is said to have been a grand sight, well worth the journey of hundreds of miles to witness. On approaching the island the summit appeared as though covered with snow, but a closer view showed

the cap was of sulphur; and from the centre of which, apparently, arose a high column of smoke and vapour. As perceived in relief of a mass of black cloud which lined the horizon, it can readily be imagined that the spectacle was brilliant. On a nearer approach a number of columns of vapour were observed rising from the base of the mountain which at first were supposed to be from submarine volcanoes, but which, later in the day, were found to be immense clouds of steam rising from the water, generated by the streams of boiling lava ejected by the volcano into the sea. The mountain formed quite a natural curiosity from the variety of hues in which it presented itself, of almost every conceivable shade between the white sulphur cap which adorned the brow of the volcano to the black cinders which streaked its sides.

The mountain on one side rises at an angle of about 45° from the sea, and the water is so clear that this angle is perceived at a great depth underneath. To walk up the side is impossible, as those hardy pedestrians who ventured found out that for every step forward they slipped two back. A stone thrown up came rolling back to the feet of the thrower. The other sides, however, were not so steep, and on the southern portion of the island is a level plain, terminating in a high castellated mass of rock some five hundred feet high, and near the base of which is a small green spot looking very much like grass. This is the only smooth place on the island.

At night the volcano presented a sight the grandeur of which can scarcely be conceived by the most vivid description of the pen. There may be a basin at the summit of the mountain, but if there is it is not observable from the deck of a ship; and one thing is certain that neither fire nor vapour come from the top as was at first supposed when the ship was approaching the island.

About two thirds of the way up the mountain's side is a large hole, looking like the entrance to Hades. It is indeed the mouth of an immense fiery furnace, from which poured a stream of molten lava, heated to a white heat; and as this fiery stream wended its way to the sea, it became divided into four smaller streams, which looked like so many fire-falls as they continued their course until they disappeared behind an immense mass of vapour generated by the falling of the liquid into the water.

A boat's crew landed on the island during the day, and as the party were rambling round examining many curiosities, an officer endeavoured to ascertain the depth of one of the numerous holes which perforate the surface of the island by inserting his leg into it, but though the sounding line was not long enough to touch bottom, it was of sufficient length for the extremity to get into uncomfortably warm quarters, and it is almost needless to say that no time was wasted in sending to the ship for the donkey engine to render assistance in extricating it before it was withdrawn, and an examination proved that the leather covering of the lower extremity had suffered injury from contact with a substance hotter than the surface. The circumstance is treated rather as a good joke on board the *Alert*, and as illustrative of the danger of exploring the sides of volcanoes.

The *Alert* sailed away into the fast approaching night, and as the darkness deepened the fires became more brilliant, and the lava was distinctly observed boiling and



foaming along on its course to the sea, presenting a sight not likely to be forgotten by those who were so fortunate as to witness it. The crew of the *Alert* had a finer display of fire-works on the night of the National Anniversary than the majority of their friends either at home or abroad.

The little steamer stood south under sail and steam to look for the doubtful reef she was in search of when the illness of Lieut. Hunter necessitated her return to Japan and on reaching the position the reef was supposed to be in, surveying was immediately commenced and continued for a day and a half, the soundings clearly testifying that this was another danger in the Pacific which mariners may no longer be afraid of, and the sooner it is expunged from the British admiralty and other charts the better.

At noon on the 7th July the *Alert's* head was turned further south to look for the reef called Mira-Porvos, which, in Spanish, signifies "look out for yourself," and supposed to be in lat. 14.20 N. and about long. 143.30 E. At 8 a.m. on the morning of the 8th the position was reached, and without any delay the steamer commenced her usual tactics when searching for an island or reef, steaming in parallel lines about five miles apart, taking two deep sea soundings on one line and three on the next, for two days.

Hitherto the weather had been comparatively good and favourable for surveying operations, but fine weather does not last very long at this particular season of the year in the latitude in which the *Alert* was conducting her experimental enterprise with such signal success, therefore when the barometer showed indications on the morning of the 10th July of an approaching storm, everything was made as snug as possible on board. And none too soon, for one of those terrific squally gales which prevail in the Pacific soon struck the vessel, which was hove to to receive its force the better, and for twenty-four hours it blew a hurricane accompanied by heavy rain; and on the steamer's way back to the Bonins an unusually heavy sea was encountered.

At 8 a.m. on July 11th further search south was given up and a start made for the north to look for still one more of those doubtful reefs the non-existence of so many of which the *Alert* had succeeded in establishing. The ground was reached on the 11th at 2 p.m., and as nothing was found but deep sea everywhere, and the vessel having completed her usual parallel lines, a course was shaped for the Britomart reef over the position of which it was desired by the commander of the *Alert* to run a few more lines; and, as no reef was discovered, the *Alert* then started once more for that haven of refuge, the Bonin islands, which were reached at noon on Sunday the 17th to the great relief and pleasure of all on board, for a most trying time had been experienced. All the coal left on the island was taken on board, and after a detention of two days by rough weather the *Alert* steamed away from Port Lloyd at 10 a.m. on the 22nd July, bound for Yokohama, where she arrived in safety, after an uneventful voyage, at 9.30 a.m. on the 25th.

#### THE BONIN ISLANDS.

The chief circumstance which renders the Bonin islands of interest is the fact that a number of foreigners have resided there in a semi-savage state from a date anterior to the visit of Commodore Perry to Japan. To-day a few of the first settlers are still alive and with their descendants, and they, with the

descendants of those who by fair means or foul have gone over to the majority, form quite a little colony. Accounts from various sources agree that the islanders live apart, are very jealous of each other and are in a state of profound ignorance scarcely conceivable. About two years ago an attempt was made to send a schoolmaster to the Bonin islanders—at least the scheme was agitated by correspondents in the columns of the *Japan Gazette*—but fell through either from lack of funds or from the want of a suitable person willing to undertake the onerous task. The islanders have felt the necessity of giving their children an education the lack of which has been such a drawback to their own domestic happiness, and have made attempts from time to time to send them to Kobe; and when the *Alert* recently visited the islands the good offices of the captain's clerk, Mr. Van Buskirk, were solicited to make arrangements with a missionary in Tokio to take a certain number of children for a period of three years.

On the arrival of the *Alert* in Yokohama with the body of the late Lieut. Hunter, Mr. Van Buskirk lost no time in negotiating with the missionaries in Tokio. Overtures were first made to the Catholic mission regarding the son of a Frenchman named Lesseur, who resides on one of the islands, a native of Brittany, commonly called French Louis. L'Abbe Midon informed Mr. Van Buskirk that before he could take the boy into the mission the nationality of Lesseur would have to be established. Then an agreement would have to be made binding the boy to remain in the mission until he became of age; and sundry other formalities had to be gone through. Mr. Van Buskirk then went to the Rev. A. C. Shaw, a missionary connected with the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, in Tokio, and having described the illiterate condition of the islanders and their anxiety to give their children an education, Mr. Shaw readily entered into the scheme of bringing the young outcasts within the pale of civilization, and engaged to board, lodge and educate a limited number free of charge for three or more years.

On the return of the *Alert* to the Bonin islands, the result of Mr. Van Buskirk's negotiations were made known and received with as much enthusiasm as could be expected from a class of people naturally taciturn and morose in disposition. A difficulty, however, presented itself which for a time threatened to upset all their plans for sending the children to school. How were they to be got to Tokio? This problem was discussed most earnestly. The vessel which usually visits the island twice a year had just departed and would not come again for six months. In their dilemma it was resolved to appeal to the governor of the islands to use his influence with the commander of the *Alert* and endeavour to induce him to convey the children in his vessel. The upshot of this application to the governor was the following letter:—

TOKIO FU, SHUCHOJO,

Oogi-ura Chichi-shima, Ogasawara-shima

July 19th, 1881.

To COMMANDER C. S. COTTON, U. S. N.,  
Commanding U. S. S. *Alert*.

Sir,—Certain European settlers of this island, who sometime back reported to me their intention of sending their children to Tokio to be placed at school for a term of years, now inform me that it was impossible to secure a passage for the children in the mail boat which recently left this harbour, and ask my good offices in recommending them to you for a passage in your ship to Yokohama.

The ambition of this people to secure for their children proper training certainly deserves at my hands all possible aid and encouragement; with which feelingly I heartily recommend the request of the settlers to your favourable consideration.

I enclose a list of the parents and children above referred to and have the honor to be very respectfully

Your Obedient Servant

G. TAKEDA,  
Acting Choo.

The following list of names, with the ages of the children, was enclosed in governor Takeda's letter:—

NAMES OF CHILDREN	AGE	NAME OF PARENTS.
BOYS.		
Moses Webb	17	Caroline Webb
Benjamin Savory	16	Maria Savory
Felix Lesseur	10	Louis Lesseur
Jose Brava	11	George Brava
John Two-Crabs	11	Thomas Two-Crabs
GIRLS.		
Isabella Savory	10	Maria Savory
Carrie Pease	8	Susan Two-Crabs.

It is almost needless to say that, notwithstanding the lack of accommodation for passengers which the *Alert* afforded, commander Cotton willingly agreed to the suggestion of governor Takeda, and even placed his own cabin at the disposal of the two girls; and on the vessel arriving in Yokohama they were seen safely in charge of their new guardian.

We may mention here that with the exception of Carrie Pease, the others had signed contracts to remain under Mr. Shaw's direction for a period of three years, the exception referred to, on account of her extreme youth, being under an engagement to remain for six years.

During the stay of the *Alert* at the Bonin islands the officers of the ship obtained some very interesting particulars regarding the people, their methods of living and government. When Commodore Perry visited the islands in 1853 he took possession of the Southern group in the name of the United States Government, and caused a copper plate to be fastened to a tree bearing the following inscription:—

"This southern group of islands has been explored and taken possession of by Commander John Kelly and officers of the U. S. ship *Plymouth* under orders from Commodore M. C. Perry on behalf of the United States of North America. This 30th day of October 1853."

At the same time the national flag was hoisted and a salute fired from the ship. The flag was left flying when the vessel left. The population of this acquired territory at that time did not exceed eleven. The soil was a rich, sandy loam, capable of producing fine crops of sweet potatoes and corn. Lemons, pine apples, and tobacco grew wild. Wild hogs were plentiful at the north end of the main island. Birds, such as pigeons, plover, and ducks abounded, and the land was infested with rats.

Commodore Perry did what he could towards bringing the Bonin islanders under some sort of control, and to induce them to recognise some law. With this object in view the commodore caused the following regulations to be drawn up and signed:—

We, the undersigned, residents and settlers on Peel Island in convention assembled, wishing to promote each other's mutual welfare by forming a government, have ordained and established the following articles which we solemnly bind ourselves to support for the period of two years:—

#### ARTICLE I.

The style of our government shall be "The Colony of Peel Island."

#### ARTICLE II.

The government shall consist of a chief magistrate and a council comprised of two persons, and by virtue of this article, we unanimously elect and

appoint Nathaniel Savory, chief magistrate, and James Mottley and Thomas H. Webb, councilmen—each to hold his said office of chief magistrate and councilman for the period of two years from the date of this convention. The said chief magistrate and council shall have power to enact such rules and regulations for the government of this island as by them from time to time may appear necessary for the public good; such rules and regulations to become binding on the residents must have the approval and concurrence of two-thirds of the whole number of residents.

#### ARTICLE III.

Until such time as the chief magistrate and council may be enabled to form a code of regulations, we unanimously ordain and establish the following thirteen sections under this article which shall have full force and effect until the adoption of others, and the expiration of two years.

**SECTION 1.**—It shall be the duty of any and all persons or persons having claims and demands against each other, who shall have any disputes or difficulties between themselves, which they cannot amicably settle, to refer the same to the chief magistrate and council for adjudication and settlement; and their decision will be final and binding.

**SECTION 2.**—All penalties in this colony shall be a pecuniary fine; and no penalty for any offence shall exceed the sum of—

**SECTION 3.**—The chief magistrate and council shall have power to direct the seizure and sale of any property of any offender sufficient to pay the same against whom a fine has been decreed, whenever it may be found within the limits of Peel Island.

**SECTION 4.**—It shall be unlawful for any resident, settler or other person on the island, to entice anybody to desert from any vessel that may come into this port, or to secrete or harbour any such deserter.

**SECTION 5.**—Any person who shall entice, counsel or aid any other person to desert from any vessel in this port or shall harbour or conceal him to prevent his apprehension, shall be liable to a fine not exceeding 50 dollars.

**SECTION 6.**—All moneys arising from the levy of fines upon offenders shall be a public fund for the use of and belong to the colony; and the same shall be placed in the hands of the chief magistrate for safe keeping, and to appropriate to such purposes as the chief magistrate and council may deem necessary and proper; and a correct account of all expenditures of said moneys shall be kept by them and a statement of receipts and expenditures published at the end of the year.

**SECTION 7.**—All public moneys remaining unexpended at the end of one year shall be equally divided among the present settlers, unless otherwise ordained by a convention of the people.

**SECTION 8.**—Port Regulations. There shall be two regularly appointed and recognized pilots for this port, and by virtue of this section of Art. III, we hereby unanimously appoint James Mottley and Thomas H. Webb as such for a period of two years from the date of this convention. Said pilots may appoint capable substitutes under them, and it shall be unlawful for any other person or persons to perform the duty of pilot. Any one who shall without the authority of either of the appointed pilots attempt to pilot any vessel into or out of this port, shall be liable to a fine equal to the amount of the established rate of pilotage.

**SECTION 9.**—It shall be unlawful for any commander of a vessel to discharge any of his crew in this port without the permission from the chief magistrate and council, and no commander of a vessel shall leave any sick or helpless man or men upon the island unless he procure a house for him or them, and make suitable arrangements for his or their comfort and subsistence during his or their illness.

**SECTION 10.**—Any person or persons not owning land upon this island who may hereafter enter into partnership in trade with a resident and land holder, or who shall purchase an undivided interest in the land of a resident, must enter into written articles of agreement, and obtain a written title to the undivided interest he may purchase in lands, stock &c.; and in the event of dissolution of partnership, or death of either party, partition of the property shall be made by the chief magistrate and council, whose duty it shall be to secure and take charge of the property and effects of any deceased person for the benefit of his friends.

**SECTION 11.**—Any person or persons who shall be guilty of trespass, or waste upon the lands of any of the inhabitants, shall be fined in a small sum equal to the value of the damage or waste he or they may commit thereon, upon a proper adjudication thereof by the chief magistrate and council.

**SECTION 12.**—The chief magistrate and council may when they deem it necessary, call a convention of the people to propose new, and make amendments to the foregoing rules and regulations.

**SECTION 13.**—Any and all persons who shall hereafter emigrate or settle in this colony shall be subject and held amenable to the foregoing rules and regulations.

All the above articles of government having been prepared, concurred in and adopted by us in convention assembled at the house of Nathaniel Savory in Port Lloyd, Peel Island, on the 28th day of August A.D. 1853.—We solemnly pledge ourselves to each other to support and carry out the same.

In testimony whereof we have hereunto subscribed our names the day and year aforesaid.

(Signed)

NATHANIEL SAVORY.  
THOMAS H. WEBB.  
JAMES MOTTLEY.  
WILLIAM GILLEY JR.  
JOHN BRAVA.  
GEORGE W. (his mark) BRAVA.  
JOSEPH (his mark) CULLEN.  
GEORGE HORTON.

Commodore Perry purchased a piece of land from Savory, with the object of, when necessary, using it as a coal wharf, and the following deed of transfer was drawn up and signed by the contracting parties:—

PEEL ISLAND,

Harbour of Port Lloyd.

June 15th, 1853.

Be it known, that on this fifteenth day of June, in the year of Our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three, I, Nathaniel Savory, born in the U. S. of America, and twenty-three years a resident of this island, having in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty-six located, staked out and held as my own property according to the usage of the island, all that certain portion, parcel or piece of ground fronting on what is called the Ten Fathom Hole, the same being a part of the bay or harbour of Port Lloyd in the said island commonly called and known at present as Peel Island, including the entire and both sides of the creek which empties into the said harbour called the Ten Fathom Hole, and which said piece or parcel of ground has a front on the said harbour of Ten Fathom Hole of one thousand yards, more or less, with a depth from low water mark of five hundred yards more or less between parallel lines, all of which said piece or parcel of ground together with the creek hereintofoe mentioned. I have and do by these presents, sell, transfer, assign and make over unto Commodore W. E. Perry of the U. S. Navy, here present accepting and acknowledging due delivery and possession thereof for himself, his heirs and assigns forever together with all my right, title and interest whatsoever thereunto appertaining.

The said sale is made for and in consideration of the sum of fifty dollars and other benefits, and which said sum of fifty dollars with other benefits the said Nathaniel Savory hereby acknowledges the receipt thereof and grants acquittance therefor

Thus done and signed in the island known as Peel Island, on the day, month and year first above written, in the presence of Edwin Fithian and J. Green, lawful witnesses above the age of twenty-one. The words interlined "more or less" approved.

(Signed) W. C. PERRY.  
NATHANIEL SAVORY.

Witnesses

EDWIN FITHIAN.  
JOHN GREEN.

Commodore Perry also appointed Savory the guardian of his property and certain animals which he left on the island with the following authority:—

U.S. STEAM FRIGATE "SUSQUEHANNA."

Port Lloyd, Peel Island, June 15th, 1853.

SIR,—I give you charge as my agent of the piece of ground this day purchased of you by me, and request that you will forbid the cutting of timber, or any trespass thereon on pain of penalties of the law.

Respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

M. C. PERRY.

MR. NATHANIEL SAVORY,  
Port Lloyd, Peel Island.

U. S. STEAM FRIGATE "SUSQUEHANNA."

Port Lloyd, Peel Island June, 15th, 1853.

SIR:—I hereby appoint you agent to look after and take charge of certain live stock landed from the ship for the purpose of improving the breed of animals useful in husbandry, the pasturage of this and the neighbouring islands being abundant. And I have to direct that none of the said animals be killed until after the expiration of five years from this date, recommending at the same time that the bulls and cows be permitted to multiply even after that time, in view of furnishing to the farmers of the islands a sufficient number of cattle for the plough and other agricultural and useful purposes. I also appoint you agent for the U. S. Squadron under my command at the Bonin Islands, to look after the comforts and interests of any one who may land at the islands from said squadron, and to take charge of all property belonging to said squadron, or to the United States, and you are invested with authority to act accordingly.

One man named John Smith belonging to the U. S. Naval Service will be landed from this ship to assist you in the duties entrusted to your charge and he will have orders to refer to you for advice and instructions.

I have caused your name to be placed upon the books of this ship for pay and provisions, and you are consequently attached to the navy of the U. S., and possessed of all the privileges and immunities to be derived therefrom.

The John Smith referred to above was left on shore with six months provisions, but the Commodore, wishing no doubt to prevent quarrelling as far as possible, left no liquor behind. Smith was charged to keep a log and note the arrival and departure of all vessels coming and going, names of captains, cargo, &c., and to notify deserters from vessels that they would not be shipped in the U. S. squadron, as well as to notify all persons found harbouring deserters from U. S. men-of-war that they would be punished according to law.

These particulars were obtained from documents in the possession of Mrs. Savory, who most resolutely refused for any consideration to part with the originals, and it was with some reluctance that a copy even could be obtained. What became of the cattle left behind by Commodore Perry we are unable to say; for so far as we are aware the principal animals on the islands are wild hogs and goats, which abound in great numbers.—Aug. 13.

We are glad to notice that at the annual general meeting of the Society of Arts held on June 29th, Professor Perry, formerly of the Imperial College of Engineering in Tokio, was awarded a medal for papers read before the society during the year. Amongst other recipients of medals were Professor Graham Bell, Mr. Siemens, Sir Bartle Frere, and Sir Richard Temple. Professor Perry has also, we are informed, been appointed Cantor lecturer before the society for the ensuing season. We always notice with pleasure genuine successes of this description attained by old residents of Japan in the broader world of science and letters at home.

## Correspondence.

"T.W." TO THE "NICHU NICHU SHINBUN."

(THE publication of this letter was begun in the *Nichi Nichu Shinbun* on the 8th instant and completed to-day. The first portion was translated and published in this paper on the 8th and 9th instant, when it was resolved to await the appearance of the entire letter in order to present it intact.)

SIR:—I have read with much interest the remarks you have recently published upon one of my letters to the *London Economist*, and am induced by your wish to have the discussion continued, and by your courteous manner, to ask you now to allow me to point out certain errors into which you have been led by the date of the republication of my letters in Japan.

First.—These letters were written last year, about the time when the government tried to check the depreciation of kinsatsu by selling silver from its reserves, and before it was known that this imprudent policy had been abandoned.

Second.—They were written long before it was determined to discontinue commercial and industrial enterprise on government account, and before the bureau of agriculture and commerce was established.

Third.—They were not intended for publication in Japan, nor for the purpose of criticising the government or of offering advice to the people of this country; but only to furnish foreign capitalists with information which might be useful in case the new loan, then spoken of, should be put on the market.

If you will consider these facts you will see that some of your remarks, implying that my suggestions were untimely, superfluous, or officious, are not quite just.

This explanation being personal, is of little consequence to your readers; but it is necessary to make in order that such value as my views may be thought to possess should not be diminished by erroneous ideas respecting their purpose or date.

1.—You say that government expenditures for the promotion of trade and production had no connection with the depreciation of the currency. But if you will reflect that these expenditures assisted to exhaust the treasury, and caused some millions of kinsatsu to be put into circulation, you will see that they could not have been without influence.

If this method of wasting the revenue on unprofitable or injurious trading or manufacturing establishments, or in assisting a few favoured individuals at the public cost, has now really been abandoned, the people of Japan are much to be congratulated.

There are certain things even of a commercial nature which can be better and more advantageously done by the government than by private persons: but the number of such things is very limited, and the limit can not be passed, even in Japan, without direct wrong to the people.

2.—With regard to a foreign loan you seem to overlook the fact that I deprecated such a remedy for the currency difficulty, maintaining that an existing debt to the Japanese people such as the paper currency represents, was preferable to a debt to foreigners. But as to a foreign loan for useful public works, the construction of which by means of native capital only is hardly possible, the case is entirely different, and with your permission

I will make this clear in another letter. Meantime, as you say that the idea of such a loan has been considered and renounced, I will only remark that in my opinion, such a decision is unfortunate for the people of this country, who appear to be greatly in need of facilities which certain public works would give them yet quite unable to supply the capital required for such works.

3.—You agree with me that the right remedy for the defects of the currency is to increase the metallic reserve. But you object to having that reserve increased by means of additional taxation. How, then, is it to be increased? If the government may not trade nor manufacture, it must either borrow or tax. But borrowing from foreigners being objectionable, while borrowing from Japanese is apparently impracticable, the only remaining resource is taxation. You will no doubt insist that economy in expenditure and larger customs duties will allow of some accumulation in the Treasury.

But as to the former the budget shows that there is no prospect of any economy. The estimated expenditure just balances the revenue, yen 59,933,507 on one side, and yen 59,933,507 on the other. And though some saving may be effected under the head of "Creation of Industries etc." through the new policy you mention, yet in the other items there is a natural and steady growth which will more than absorb all such savings.

The last budget shows that the sum of yen 46,102,818 was required last year for the army, the navy and the pay of government officials throughout the empire. This is nearly 80 per cent. of the whole annual expenditure. Economies in other items would, therefore, be of little avail if this item is to increase. Yet it is quite clear that it does increase and that it must continue to do so. The government is obliged to maintain its forces and its officers. It can not safely reduce them. What a popular government might do in this way to save expense, a despotic government dare not do. For if it be not always alert and ready it risks such a fate as recently befell the Empire in France. But government employees require food and clothing like other men, and when the price of everything is rising, their pay and the materials which government needs, must rise also. Such being the case increase in this large item is inevitable, reduction quite impossible.

Now if expenditure steadily advances and revenue stands still, the one will soon be far behind the other. It seems necessary therefore to advance the revenue also, and under present arrangements this can only be done by increasing some kind of taxation. You advise augmenting the customs duties. I have no objection to that plan, and I emphatically deny that foreigners prevent your government from adopting it. Few persons know this question better than I do, and I say that there are hardly any intelligent foreigners in Japan who are not entirely willing that the tariff should be revised and the import duties increased. It is true that foreigners who have expatriated themselves to do business in Japan; who have planted here costly establishments; and who have to pay the people attached to those establishments, are naturally opposed to any measures calculated to reduce or to destroy their business. But very few of them have any objections against such an increase of duties as will leave the volume of trade unhindered. For they know perfectly well that the importer only pays such taxes temporarily, and finally recovers them from the consumer. The only real interest that foreigners have in the matter is that trade should go on. But this is equally the interest

of the Japanese people (who want foreign trade in order to sell their own surplus products) and of the government, which should desire to encourage that trade in order to derive the greatest possible revenue from it. Whenever the question is approached in this spirit it will be found that the foreign opposition which you speak of is far from being formidable.

As you call upon me to exert myself to have the treaties revised, I may say that I have for many years maintained that the Japanese government is fully entitled to increase the customs duties, and that my own government recognizes this right. Nor do I believe that any foreign government seriously opposes its exercise. Unhappily, however, Japan has coupled this matter of tariff revision with other matters which are much less easy of adjustment. Had this mistake not been made you might have had a tariff to your liking years ago, without any difficulty whatever.

But even if the government should collect four times the present customs duties, as you propose, the yield, upon the existing volume of trade, would be only about yen 10,000,000 a year, or yen 7,500,000 more than is now collected.

Such a sum as this would do so little towards improving the currency that it is far more likely to be applied to the growing expenditure I have mentioned. If my opinion were asked I should say it was quite certain to be used for the latter purpose only and not for the former. In any case, what are higher duties on imported goods but new taxes on the Japanese consumer?

It is evident therefore that, whatever the method, the result is increased taxation of the Japanese people.

4.—This brings us to the question, how can taxation be increased with the least hardship and the utmost benefit to the people. You say increase customs duties and other indirect taxes. I say you can not greatly increase customs duties without destroying the trade which yields them and uselessly irritating those who depend on that trade. As to other indirect taxes, the budget values them all together at about yen 8,000,000 (post office omitted); of which about yen 6,000,000 is upon saké and other liquors. This is but a small sum, but probably no addition could be made to these taxes without exciting popular commotion.

The only other taxes are the land taxes.

Let us consider then if they can be augmented.

In your remarks you attribute to me the view that taxation in Japan had reached its maximum, and upon this error of your own you found a charge of inconsistency against me. But I did not say and do not believe that taxation has reached its maximum in Japan. What I said was that taxation was less easy for the present government than for its predecessors, but that recent good crops tended to reduce the difficulty. I cannot discover anything irrational in thus connecting taxes, which yield the national revenue, with crops, which compose the national wealth. They are closely connected in every country, and it would be very strange, and very dangerous, if they were independent of each other in Japan.

It is no doubt true that taxation is less willingly borne when the people are unrepresented in the government, and I heartily sympathise with your reasoning on this point. But that is not the present question. That question is only, can the existing government augment taxation without oppressing the people and endangering its own power. It seems to me that this question can be answered affirmatively, and I will proceed to state my reasons for thinking so.



The national land tax being  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. on the value of all land, and the provincial tax, which was formerly  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., being now about  $\frac{1}{10}$  per cent., the total land tax is about  $3\frac{1}{10}$  per cent. on the value. This is not a high rate of taxation in a country where much heavier taxes formerly prevailed; where the total of other taxes is small (less than one fifth of the whole revenue); where the yield of land is unusually great; and where the average rate of profit (as the average rate of interest shows) is very high. Nor do I find anything in your articles to convict me of error in this respect or to lead me to doubt a considerably larger amount might be gathered from the land tax without serious difficulty.

I favour the augmentation of this tax for the reason that it is the surest, simplest, and most equitable form of taxation which can be devised. It is sure because land is a fixed thing. It is simple because owners of land can be easily found and the value of land easily ascertained. It is equitable because every one is taxed in proportion to the extent or value of the land he occupies or which supports him. Those who hire land from others pay their tax in the form of rent to the land owner who pays the government. Even the beggar who lives on the public road pays part of this tax in the price of his food. No one wholly escapes. The rich or luxurious man occupying extensive or valuable ground pays a large sum. The poor man pays but a little. But every one contributes according to his wealth. There is no other tax so equitable, provided it be fairly levied according to the value of the land.

You intimate, however, as regards this tax, the farmers are unjustly treated. What I hear on all sides is that, in general, farmers have been very fortunate of late, first in gathering large crops and second in getting high prices. If that be so they ought to bear cheerfully their full share of the taxes necessary to the government. But it is possible that what you suggest has some foundation in fact.

For, according to the budget, rice land, arable land, and rural building land, pay 40,336,927 out of the 41,901,441 yen of total land tax, while city lands pay only 804,594 yen, or less than 2 per cent. of the whole. This sum capitalized at the rate of 3.7 per cent. would give a total of less than 22 millions of yen as the value of all the urban lands in Japan, which is certainly a very small sum. I should suppose that the land of either Tokio or Osaka alone would be worth more than yen 22 millions. It may be therefore that a full and impartial valuation of town lands would add very considerably to the product of the national land tax without troubling the farmers. But on this matter I can not of course form any accurate judgment, and should like to see it fully discussed in your journal.

5.—You do me much injustice in supposing that I meant to disparage the farmers of Japan, or to compare them with "roving tribes." No one admires the beauty of their fields or the careful excellence of their culture more than I do. But I find it impossible to agree with you that "the agricultural resources of Japan are so developed that little remains to be done."

It is the judgment of every observer who has written on this subject that agricultural production in Japan might easily be augmented very largely, and when I read that only about one seventh of the soil is cultivated, I must conclude that these observers are correct. What I myself see is that, with a particularly fertile country yielding many exceptionally

valuable products, the 35 millions of people in Japan have less than yen 30 millions of surplus products each year to sell to foreigners, whereas the cold northern country of Sweden (including Norway) with a population of only 6 millions, exports annually nearly 90 millions of yen in value. That is to say, the surplus products of fertile Japan amount to less than one yen per year for each individual, while the surplus products per year of sterile Sweden amount to 15 yen for each individual. These figures speak for themselves and prove to me that the industrial development of Japan is very incomplete and that it might be stimulated with advantage.

It may be interesting in this connection to lay before your readers the following comparisons, drawn from official statistics for the year 1876.

	Population.	Reduced to Silver yen or Dollars.	
		Exports.	Imports.
Japan .....	33,623,379	27,711,527	23,964,678
Sweden and Norway ...	6,351,402	88,101,000	117,883,000
Netherlands	3,924,792	197,800,000	266,000,000
Belgium.....	5,336,185	213,000,000	290,000,000

It will be observed that all these European countries enjoy what is called in Japan an "adverse balance of trade," but there is no sign of any of them being ruined by it. On the contrary, up to late dates, they were all remarkably prosperous countries, and very well satisfied with the condition of their trade.

Now there are only two or three ways by which a government can effectively stimulate the industry of the people. One is to provide facilities for transportation of products to market. Another is to bestow honours and distinctions on those who excel in industry. A third is to apply the spur of taxation. And this last is the most efficient of all. For the people may lazily neglect to use the roads provided, and they may be indifferent to rank and rewards, but they cannot disregard the collector of taxes. If, for example, the owners of the land now lying uncultivated all over Japan were compelled to pay taxes on those lands under penalty of having them sold to others, do you suppose they would let them lie unproductive as at present?

As my letter is so long, I can but touch on this topic, but I think you will see that it offers a vast field for investigation.

6.—You rightly imply that to increase the efficiency, that is, the productiveness of labour, an increase of capital is necessary. Nothing is more true, than that capital is as essential to labour as tools are to a carpenter. Neither can accomplish much without the other. And it is evident enough that capital available for the assistance of industry is scarce in Japan. If it were abundant we should not see so many proposers of new undertakings running first to the government for the money required to begin them. It is clear that those gentlemen, who must know very well the true state of things, believe that the only enterprising capitalist in the country is the Okurasho. Now, as the Okurasho has resolved hereafter to devote its funds exclusively to government affairs, capital for such private business must be sought elsewhere. Where is it to be obtained? Those "patriots" who now wish to drive foreign capital away from Japan, instead of encouraging it to come and to remain here, ought to furnish an answer to this question.

7.—But increased production will be of little avail to Japan without increased facilities of transportation to ready markets. You say that this remedy is being applied and I admit that

through the establishment of the Mitsu Bishi Company (which has done great service to the trade of Japan, besides having saved the government during the Satsuma rebellion) and through the contraction of railways and other roads something is being done in this direction. Still, this work goes on very slowly, and it also requires a good deal of capital. I read that the people are being urged to supply the capital needed for it, but it seems very doubtful if they can do so without withdrawing from ordinary industry the capital equally needed in that department. And it appears to me that it would be infinitely better for the country if all the roads, like the telegraphs and post office, were made, maintained, and controlled by the government.

8.—I have endeavoured in the foregoing remarks to respond in some measure to your call for suggestions as to means of removing popular apathy in Japan, and shall feel pleased if you find what I have written of any value in that way. I think that exertion is the only true remedy for apathy, and that industrial apathy is a greater evil just now in Japan than political apathy. The present system of government seems, on the whole, to suit the Japanese people, and I think any great change, under existing circumstances, might yield more evils than advantages. At all events it would be presumptuous in me to offer any advice in that matter. You are yourself of the liberal party. Yet you evidently fear that railways and other measures for the increase of production and trade, may involve some political changes and troubles. I do not in the least share your apprehensions; but that you can entertain such apprehensions is a reason why I should not complicate clear and simple propositions about industrial affairs with difficult discussions about political matters. My conviction is that if the Japanese people will attend for the present carefully and wisely to the former, their political needs will in due time be happily adjusted.

I am, Sir,

Very respectfully yours,

T. W.

Yokohama, July 1881.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun*, makes the following comments on the letter recently addressed to its columns by "T.W."

A foreign gentleman in Yokohama signing the initials "T.W." lately wrote to *The Economist*, a newspaper published in London, a letter in which he earnestly and fairly discussed the paper currency of this country. We published a translation of that letter, and endeavoured to draw public attention to it. To our remarks "T.W." replied in a letter to this paper published in the early part of the month. In that letter it is clear that the more attention the writer pays to the subject his arguments become stronger; we also observe the similarity between his views and our own, the only difference being on the increase of the land tax. To this matter we shall refer at a later time for the purpose of soliciting the opinions of "T.W." and the public thereon.

"T.W." says that his letters (to *The Economist*) were written last year about the time when the government tried to check depreciation of kinsatsu by the sale of silver withdrawn from the reserves; and before they had resolved upon the discontinuance of industrial and commercial enterprises on government account; also before the bureau of agriculture and commerce was established,

and when a foreign loan was spoken of as possible. In this case we regard "T.W.'s" suggestions as neither untimely, superfluous, nor officious. They were proper and useful comments for the information of foreign countries; and would no doubt have proved beneficial to ourselves had they appeared in this country last year. We will now deal with each article of the letter last written to us.

1. "T.W." seems to imply that we had taken the position of holding government expenditure for the promotion of trade and production to have no connection with the depreciation of currency. It is probable our meaning has not been properly conveyed to "T.W." in translation. Certainly the promotion of trade has necessitated great expenditure and so assisted to exhaust the treasury, as "T.W." says, though not directly to depreciate currency. Our anxiety about this serious matter has been great, and from time to time we have earnestly recommended the government to abandon all their engagements in unprofitable trading and manufacturing establishments, and to withdraw from the assistance of a few favoured persons at the public cost; and fortunately this policy is fast being changed by our government, though in some cases it is likely to be continued in one and abandoned in another. However this may be, the government are said to have resolved definitively to withdraw from all agricultural, commercial, and industrial pursuits, and we hope their interference therewith will gradually cease. "T.W." is perfectly right in saying there is a narrow limit to those things in which a government can engage and that limit cannot be passed without direct wrong to the people. The government, aware of this fact, are suspending all their trading adventures, by which means their business is much simplified, and a large saving is effected, sufficient to meet increased expenditure caused by the rise of prices, so that there will be no necessity for increasing the revenue even if no money be saved.

2.—We agree with "T.W." that it is not wise policy at present to raise a foreign loan for the purpose of relieving currency by exchanging it for specie; and that a domestic loan is much to be preferred. To the inexpediency of a foreign loan we referred some time ago when the rumours were afloat that a foreign loan was to be raised for the redemption of paper. The public recollect this, and perhaps "T.W." may do so also. Regarding a foreign loan for the construction of public works we will not now make any remarks, preferring to leave it for another occasion.

3. The most effective process in the rescue of currency is increased reserves. We do not dispute this, but to carry it out increased taxation is a necessity, both domestic and foreign loans being objectionable. But as it is impossible to increase the tax on land, the only course open is to raise customs duties and miscellaneous taxes. It is true that customs duties, though paid by foreigners first, are eventually borne by the consumer, yet they are indirect and consequently less difficult to levy, and therefore there are no taxes more proper to increase than these. But "T.W." asserts that if the tariff is quadrupled, foreign trade remaining the same, the whole receipts of the customs will be but 10,000,000 yen annually; that is to say, 7,500,000 yen more than at present, a sum insufficient to restore paper and only useful to meet the increased expenditure of the government caused by the rise in prices.

As mentioned in paragraph 1, the government save by the simplification of their business to meet their increased outlay; and they will be in a position to appropriate the ten (sic) millions gained from an augmented tariff to the reduction of paper. If the ten millions are annually applied to this purpose the effect will be seen in an improved currency.

If treaty revision is arranged as we hope it will be and the customs receipts become four times greater than at present, thereby securing a sum of ten million yen, the value of currency will be gradually restored as the reserve fund accumulates year by year. In point of fact, the rash policy of at once exchanging all the paper currency, which amounts to over 100,000,000 yen, for specie cannot be adopted, and if it ever should be put into practice the result will be that, whilst specie is superseding paper money an injury, equal to that accompanying the depreciation of satsu will be inflicted. If, however, ten years are allowed for the withdrawal of this sum, it will be easily accomplished. Why then, is it necessary to withdraw it at once?

Moreover, we see from the present condition of our foreign trade that it has a tendency to improve, and increased duties will not be so heavy as to check trade; and if it increases it will not require ten years to realize the sum of 100,000,000 yen. Therefore we believe that if customs duties are applied to the reduction of the currency, after the present treaty is revised, currency now inconvertible can become both convertible and interchangeable before ten years pass away.

4.—T.W. says in connection with the economy of the government that now prices are very high the expenditure of the government naturally tends to increase and it is impossible to prevent it. It is so indeed, and of course it is a matter of impossibility for the government to reduce expenditure while they pursue the same business as at present. However, as we said before, they have determined not to engage in agriculture, industries, or commerce, and so their business will be certainly simplified to a great extent and their expenditures will also be lessened in the same degree.

If the sum so saved is appropriated to meet increased expenditure caused by the rise of prices, no deficiency will be manifest in the treasury; that is to say, the government, having to carry on fewer businesses than before, with less expenditure, there will be no necessity to increase their income in order to meet the rise in prices. We think that if taxes on saké and tobacco are added as a supplement, the government will not be obliged to further increase paper in order to cover a deficiency produced in the treasury.

5.—Thus, if customs duties are appropriated for the reduction of currency, and all other taxes for state expenditures and the reduction of national bonds, no war happening during the next ten years, and the government practice an economical policy without venturing out of their proper sphere, it is not impossible to stop the depreciation of paper and restore our finances to a sound footing. Our opinion is that this may be calculated on with tolerable safety. Should it be so, no new tax will be required; nor is it necessary to increase the land tax. The reason why T.W. insists on increasing this tax is, that he does not recognize the fact that land tax is heavy in reality. Perhaps he superficially thinks that by two and a

half per cent. on the value of land declared in its title deed, 2.5 per cent. is really meant, and is induced to think the tax in question very light. But if the farmers be questioned about their real condition, T.W. will find that the rental mentioned in the title deed is declared upon the price of the land it represents, calculated from crops raised from it. Indeed he will see also that in spite of 2.5 per cent. on the price of land declared in title deeds, (as nominal ground rent) the real tax on it is 30 or 40 per cent. somewhat lighter than the tax under the old system of taxation in which four parts of each crop belong to the government and six to the farmers. But fortunately our farmers have been favoured with good crops for several years, and the high price of rice for the past two or three years, so that they are in a prosperous condition. By this circumstance T.W. is led to believe that farmers are generally so wealthy, because he is not well acquainted with the condition of the country. Such being the cause of the prosperity of farmers at present, if a revision in the present assessment of land is made the source of their wealth will soon disappear, and they can, therefore, only hope to continue in a prosperous state till the 18th year of Meiji, when such a revision will take place. This is the reason why we object to the increase of the land tax. This is not all. See what is the total amount of taxes levied upon land. Besides 2.5 per cent. for imperial taxes, there are local taxes levied to the amount of two-thirds of the imperial taxes, and municipal taxes for the expenditures of each district, town, village, &c.; and all these taxes will be about half the crop of any land. It is only because of saving some surplus, that farmers can invest money in cattle, manure, or in reclaiming waste land; but if their taxes are increased they will be deprived of means to improve their condition. Is this a sound principle of political economy?

6.—T.W. seriously declares the price of land in cities such as Tokio, Osaka, &c. is too cheap, and proposes to introduce the plan of increasing the tax on building lands in cities. At first sight this seems very reasonable, but at the same time we must notice that the assessed value of building land is much higher than its real price, while the contrary is the case with cultivated land. The land of cities is all building land and the way profits are obtained from it is of course different to cultivated land. Now if the price of these two kinds of lands is estimated in the same way, great discontent and excitement will ensue among citizens, because the difference between these two sorts of land now existing, is a proper balance naturally produced, farmers (? citizens) having to pay taxes on their trade, besides on the lands and houses they occupy. We do not think it would be prudent to disturb the proper balance of taxation for the sake of the equalization of land.

(To be continued.)

TRIAL BY JURY.

To the editor of the Japan Gazette.

DEAR SIR:—Some time since I saw in your columns some comments upon the absence in the new codes about to be put into operation of any provision for "trial by jury." In view of the fact that the chief offices of the government are mostly filled by men from the

middle classes, and that few if any of the judges in any of the courts are either men of superior learning, social rank, or exceptional integrity of character, it is hard to see why these mediocre judges might not well be assisted in deciding civil and criminal cases by twelve men drawn by lot from the same class of society. The twelve men selected from the people would be less dependent upon the government officials than the judges, and it would be rather a difficult undertaking to bribe both judge and jury and keep the secret safe from discovery.

But I now write principally for the purpose of stating that I believe there is already in existence in this country the germ of independent courts, at least independent of government appointment or dismissal, and in which also may be found something like the principle of "Trial by Jury."

I refer to the *kocho*, or local "justices of the peace" who are chosen to office by the votes of their neighbours. They try civil causes of more or less minor importance, and are assisted by other officers also elected to serve under them, and generally several neighbours come in with the plaintiffs and defendants. I have of late witnessed several of these very informal trials in various parts of the country, and I have seen that all present are permitted to express their opinions, and that the *kocho* has scarcely any other law to guide him in making his decisions than the opinions of his neighbours and the customs, usages, and precedents of the locality. The usual mode of procedure in these primitive local tribunals is first to call for the production of the evidence, *pro et con.*, both written and verbal, then the local officers and the neighbours assembled hold a free consultation. After listening for a while to these arguments and opinions, the *kocho* proposes certain concessions and accommodations for an equitable and amicable arbitration of the matter in dispute, asking his associates and neighbours their opinions, and after some modifications have been made to suit the prevailing opinions of those present, the *kocho* enters his judgment in his official book, which, together with the complaint and answer, and some record of the general conduct of the case, are preserved for future reference, or for the use of the *Saiban-sho* in case of appeal.

But many cases of dispute between neighbours are settled by the kind fatherly advice of the *kocho* without ever coming even to such a public trial as that above described. The *kocho* receives a complaint in writing, and the defendant gives his answers, and in small communities this complaint and answer become the subject of conversation at all the barber shops, bath houses, and street corners for several days. The *kocho* and his subordinates in intimate relations with their neighbours, soon know the drift of public opinion, and are just as well prepared to enter a judgment in accordance therewith and accommodated to the customs and usages and their own sense of right, as they are in the cases where the plaintiff and defendant meet face to face at the *yakuba* (justice's court) and a hearing is had in the presence of the *kocho* and his officers, and the assembled neighbours. Such a court would not be beyond doubt in cases where the plaintiff or defendant might chance to come from distant parts of the country, much less if either party should be a foreigner from across the sea, for local clan-ship would be very likely to turn public opinion in favour of the resident party, and ancient custom too would warrant the local court in partiality to its own town-people. But for the settlement of mere local disputes between villager and villager these

local tribunals partake much of the nature of the western courts where suits are decided by judge and jury in conjunction, and there is some reason to hope that this germ may ere long be developed into a more perfect system of jurisprudence for the whole empire.

And when the people of this country shall have become more cosmopolitan, and so better fitted to judge impartially without fear or favour, then there will be better opportunity than is now to be found amidst the clannish partiality of native public sentiment, for seeking the abolition of extra-territorial rights of foreign residents in this country.

Further, I may say that the full right of "trial by jury" can only coexist with constitutional and representative government; for a system of courts that should be independent of the direct control of any personal or despotic government, would never enforce the arbitrary decrees of irresponsible power.

Yours respectfully,

REFORM.

August 12th.

#### DOGS, DRUMS, NUISANCES.

To the editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

DEAR SIR:—I was glad to see your comments upon the "dog nuisance" on the 9th instant, and also the very forcible letter of your correspondent, which appeared on the evening of the 10th, and I do really hope there is good sense and common decency enough still left among that class of single gentlemen, to whom your correspondent refers, to enable them to have so much care for the nightly peace and comfort of their neighbours as to take the necessary measures to stop barking and howling of their numerous packs of "poodles, spaniels, pointers, setters, terriers or other breeds, too numerous to mention," of nocturnal sleep-obstructing canines. If any gentleman is so devotedly attached to his four-footed friends as to cause him to willingly spend more money to feed them than it costs to feed himself, that is no reason why he should allow them to howl and bark all night long, robbing his perhaps invalid neighbour of indispensable rest and sleep.

But there is another nuisance in our midst, which equally requires attention, and if any concerted action is to be taken against the "dog nuisance, the same committee might "go for" the very annoying tomtom or drum that makes such an objectionable din on the tenth of each month, from 12 o'clock noon until 12 midnight, at the temple just opposite No. 69, settlement. Quiet rest at night is as necessary to the preservation of health as food, or pure air and water, and any person who, by keeping a pack of noisy dogs, or beating drums, or ringing bells, or any similar means robs his neighbour of his sleep and rest, is as much a public enemy as he who prowls about at night to rob his neighbour of money or property, nay more, for life and health are far more precious than other possessions. Therefore I hold that if no legal means can be found to abate the nuisances above referred to the aggrieved neighbours will be justified in concocting any secret plan for the annihilation of these robbers of sleep and rest.

Perhaps the dog nuisance may be dealt with by appealing to the Consuls of the owners of untrained noisy curs and an appeal to the Ken-rei ought to be sufficient to silence that noisy drum. If that official should decline or fail to do his duty I think there is in existence a treaty convention by which the entire village

of Motomachi can be removed at any time upon the demand of the foreign representatives, and the refusal to remove or abate such nuisances as prevent the reasonable and necessary rest of the foreign residents of the settlement and bluff, and the offensive odours arising from the canal or native town that poison and destroy the health of foreign residents on either side, to say nothing of the extra risk of fire incurred by the insertion of this narrow strip of native town between the two parts of the foreign settlement, are quite sufficient reasons to warrant the foreign representatives, in demanding at any time, the removal of the cause of so much injury and discomfort. If this "sandwich" arrangement is allowed to stand yet for a time, during the term of its sufferance, the town of Motomachi ought to be entirely subjected to the sanitary and municipal control of the foreign consuls, to the same extent that the streets and domiciles of the foreign settlements are.

Hoping the agitation of the nuisance questions may not cease until some good result is attained.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

MEUM TUUM.

August 13th.

#### A PLEA FOR THE DOGS.

To the editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

DEAR MR. EDITOR:—A few years ago my ancestors were A 1 on the bench (which medals will prove) also gained high honours in field trials; and I have been treated as of high descent.

The articles in your paper and the *Herald* I know do not refer to me, but to a lot of mongrels for whom I have always had the greatest contempt. For me no whip is required, a word from my kind master (kindness suits me better than whipcord) is enough, should I make a mistake in following up the bark of any of the mongrel crew located near me, on whose behalf I have not a word to say, but I have an excuse for sometimes making a noise, and that is when calmly sleeping on the verandah, two or three neighbour's cats come romping on my master's flower beds (which I know he is proud of by the care he bestows on them) exciting me to such a pitch that I almost forget the flowers and rush after them, and I would propose that if a crusade be opened against noisy animals, who disturb peaceful citizens and annoy invalids, *that cats be included*. If a tax could be imposed on us here as in England I think it would clear out a lot, and would leave only those worth keeping; then the contemptible hordes in Homura-road, China-town, sundry corners in Main-street, and round the Hatoba would very soon be cleared off.

To gentlemen who take a delight in us, I appeal; Yokohama contains many such. Could they not establish a *Kennel Club*? If they would we might be kept select and respectable. A show would give us a chance of exhibiting our points and beauty. Then the club could assist in finding us proper mates and keep a record of our offspring, which would go a long way in preventing the birth of a lot of cross bred mongrels which are neither useful nor ornamental. If a few of the "old hands" would undertake the management of this they would do us good and at the same time teach young men who come out here with very little knowledge of us how to rear and treat us so that we can become useful companions both at home and in the field, and not a nuisance to the community.



Knowledge of your readiness in advocating a good cause either for man or beast, has prompted me to apply for a little space and I humbly subscribe myself.

### THE COLONEL'S POINTER.

August 12th, 1881.

### THE DOG NUISANCE.

To the editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

DEAR SIR:—The public will, I feel sure be exceedingly thankful to you for calling attention in last night's *Japan Gazette* to the prevalence of a nuisance which is sadly on the increase in this settlement. Our consular authorities appear, by some strange inconsistency, either utterly indifferent to the sufferings of their compatriots or powerless to cope with the many nuisances which a long suffering community have to put up with; and it is only through the influence of that powerful organ, the Press, that citizens of Yokohama can hope to obtain satisfaction. In expressing a hope, that you, Sir, will not permit the subject of the dog nuisance to drop until it is mitigated, I venture to say that I am simply endorsing the sentiments of a very large proportion of your subscribers.

Yokohama is subjected to many evils brought about through a people whose "Ways are not our ways." But the dog nuisance is essentially a foreign one founded and encouraged by foreigners, mostly young men without families, who can sleep underneath a saw-mill at full work with the thermometer at 90°. I feel persuaded that the nuisance has been suffered to grow simply from carelessness and not from any want of respect for the feelings of their neighbours; and believe that your paragraph of last night will have the effect of drawing the attention of owners of dogs to the annoyance and cause them to check it. Should it not I would suggest that a few foreigners take concerted action and prosecute the offenders.

Yours truly,

Z.

[The consular authorities have no power to act in the absence of a formal complaint, as our correspondent seems to suggest; but we believe any British resident who persists in keeping a howling dog to the annoyance of his neighbours is liable to be proceeded against on an information for private nuisance.—Ed. J. G.]

### NEWSPAPER PROFANITY.

To the editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

SIR:—It is to be hoped that our "foreign" journals will try to avoid, in the presence of heathenism, the shocking profanity which defaces the Saturday's issue of the *Mail* (once so well and carefully conducted) in its reference to the *Book of Common Prayer* (sic) and the eye of the Almighty.

I am happy to say that, while there has been a good deal of what Englishmen enjoy as hard-bitting in our local journals, they have hitherto avoided such coarse irreverence as unbecoming, and as fit only to issue from the lips of such as Bradlaugh, a person, by the way, who surely must feel immensely flattered when he hears of the support which the *Mail* has from time to time accorded to him.

I am,

Yours, &c.,

CHURCH.

Yokohama, Aug. 10th, 1881.

### HOW TO UTILISE THE ANEROID.

To the Editor of the *Hiogo News*.

SIR,—Judging by the number that have come under my own observation, I should think pocket aneroids in Kobe are about as numerous as watches. Many of these are very handsome little instruments, possessing all the latest improvements, including a circle of heights corresponding to various changes of the barometer; others, however, do not possess this, and the owner of one of the latter having asked me for a method of measuring heights with his instrument, without the use of logarithms, I have much pleasure in supplying the following. For some reason, possibly because logarithm tables are not always at hand, the objection to formula requiring logarithms seems general; but without the use of some calculated quantities previously tabulated the labor of working out results would be often prohibitive—hence the requirement for the table attached; with which, and a small pocket thermometer, results are obtainable exceeding in accuracy those given by the circle of heights on the more favored instruments, as, beyond their own compensation, no consideration is paid in these to change of temperature—an important item.

To ensure all possible accuracy, care should be taken in selecting a day on which the barometer remains steady; or, if this is not the case, at an interval of time equal to that elapsed between the readings at the lower and upper stations, again read at the lower, and take the mean of the two for the barometer reading at that station.

$\frac{1}{2}$ sum of Ther.	$\frac{1}{2}$ sum of Ther.	$\frac{1}{2}$ sum of Ther.	$\frac{1}{2}$ sum of Ther.
30 26132	48 27178	66 28228	84 29278
31 26189	49 27236	67 28286	85 29336
32 26246	50 27295	68 28345	86 29395
33 26304	51 27353	69 28403	87 29453
34 26363	52 27411	70 28462	88 29512
35 26420	53 27468	71 28520	89 29570
36 26478	54 27527	72 28578	90 29626
37 26536	55 27586	73 28636	91 29686
38 26594	56 27644	74 28694	92 29744
39 26653	57 27703	75 28753	93 29803
40 26711	58 27761	76 28811	94 29861
41 26769	59 27820	77 28870	95 29920
42 26828	60 27878	78 28928	96 29978
43 26887	61 27936	79 28987	97 30037
44 26946	62 27995	80 29045	98 30095
45 27005	63 28053	81 29103	99 30154
46 27062	64 28112	82 29161	100 30212
47 27119	65 28170	83 29219	

### Example:—

At Kobe—Bar. 29.96. At Moon Temple—Bar. 27.87  
 " Ther. 67 " Ther. 63.57  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  sum Bars.—28.915.  $\frac{1}{2}$  sum Thers.—65.25  
 Diff. " 2.09

$$28184 \text{ by } 2.09$$

$$\dots\dots\dots = 2,037.2 \text{ feet,}$$

$$28.915$$

Which is the height of the Moon Temple (top step) above K. be beach by this observation.

Again, to show that small elevations are equally satisfactorily obtained:—

Moon Temple ..... Bar. 27.87  
 Highest point of hill above Temple—Bar. 27.595  
 Thermometer—63.5 at both stations.  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  sum Bars.—27.7325—diff. Bars. .275  
 $28082 \text{ by } .275$   
 $\dots\dots\dots = 278.8 \text{ feet.}$   
 $27.7325$

Both of which results agree with those obtained by more elaborate barometrical methods.

Yours very truly,

JOHN MARSHALL.

Hiogo, August 4th, 1881.

### Occasional Notes.

In the most recent papers from home we read that about a thousand Chinese have been murdered in Peru by blacks. It was known that three or four thousand were being besieged in two plantations by vast numbers of negroes, and that they were making a brave defence, but they were doubtless overpowered. The lot of the Chinaman in Peru has always been a hard one, as we endeavoured to point out in a note recently published in these columns. In a work on the prospects of Peru, the author, Mr. A. J. Duffield who has resided in the country for many years, gives a deplorable picture of the condition of the Chinese immigrants. The only immigration that has ever taken place in Peru has been from China. It began as a kidnapping commercial speculation. Of the 65,000 Chinese taken from their country, 5,000 died on their way to South America; many threw themselves overboard, or smoked too much opium, or were shot. At one time it was seriously suggested in the congress at Lima to compel the free Chinamen, that is, those who had faithfully worked through their labour contracts, to renew these contracts. A Peruvian author states that the planters promoted the natural degeneration of their Chinese labourers; they lodged them in filthy sheds without a single care being bestowed upon them, while they were condemned to ceaseless unremitting toil, without a ray of hope that their condition would ever be bettered. Of the meanest Peruvian the authorities knew where he lived, when he died, and for what cause, and where he was buried. But the Asiatics were disembarked and scattered among numerous private properties, and their existence forgotten; they did not live, they merely vegetated, and at last died like brutes beneath the scourge of their driver, or the burden which was too heavy for them to bear.

We have consistently opposed the project which has been from time to time pressed on the Japanese government of state encouragement to emigration from this country. We hold that there is not a man too much for the soil; there is here unreclaimed land all over the country, and Yezo, which is almost a virgin forest still, will afford occupation for generations yet to come of the people of Japan. Nor can the warnings of Chinese emigration to South America, Cuba and other places be without their effect on the members of the present administration.

A LETTER signed "An Indian merchant" has recently appeared in *The Times* on the "Opium Traffic," and as it brings to light some facts to which we did not advert in our article on the opium question in parliament, and which we venture to think are not generally known in this country, we may advert to them. It might be inferred, "Indian merchant" says, that the trade in opium between India and China is in the hands of the Indian government. This is so far from being the case that "as a matter of fact, the Indian government does not export a pound of opium, and produces little more than half of what is annually exported. The manufacture of opium in British India (a monopoly of the old trading concern the East India Company, inherited from them and their predecessors, and still maintained by the existing government) varies from 45,000 to 55,000 chests per annum." This is sold in the public market at Calcutta, and with its further destination or object the Indian government have nothing

to do. Almost an equal quantity comes from the independent state of Malwa, and with this the government in no way interferes, except to levy a transit duty when it crosses into our territory. As to the best means of dealing with the question, the writer says :—

In matters of this kind the only feasible course is to treat such articles as opium and alcohol as luxuries, and to exact the highest possible excise revenue from their consumption or importation. I may say, *en parenthèse*, that the latter is the course advocated by the Chinese Government; and our old disputes with that Government arose on the question of the right it asserted to charge what import duty it pleased, instead of the rate the East India Company thought proper.

It may be better that the Indian Government should cease the actual manufacture of the drug and confine itself to the more legitimate function of levying an excise duty upon production; but to demand more than this is to open up the entire question of State responsibility for human frailty. The arguments against receipt of excise revenue from opium in the East would equally apply to receipt of revenue from, *e.g.*, alcoholic liquors in Great Britain.

APPLYING the simple and really valuable formula, furnished by Mr. Marshall of Kobe, to recent barometrical measurements of Fujiyama, we arrive without labour at results which are surprisingly accurate. The instruments used on this occasion were of Casella's make, and the barometer at the sea level during the ascent of the mountain was fairly steady, the daily range not exceeding 0.05 of an inch. The readings and measurements were :—

Odawara...Bar. 30.02 Ther. 81	Elevation 1373.4
Mianoshta. „ 28.64 „ 84	
Mianoshta. „ 28.65 „ 72	
Subashiri.. „ 27.42 „ 79	1262.7
Subashiri.. „ 27.45 „ 62	
Summit of Fuji..... „ 19.15 „ 57	9920.4
Summit of Fujisan above sea level at Odawara .....	12,556.3 ft.

The best measurements, notably one lately made by Mr. Favre Brandt, give an elevation of between 12,250 and 12,500 feet.

Every mountaineer should provide himself with a good pocket aneroid at a cost of 5*l.*, and a thermometer (wet and dry bulb combined) at a cost of 1*l.* By the use of these instruments, aided by Mr. Marshall's table, he will acquire information interesting to himself and valuable to others.

The calculations above given were hurriedly made. Perhaps some of our readers will check them.

WHAT does it mean? A Yokohama newspaper referred to the *Hochi Shinbun* on the 5th instant as guilty of publishing "the wildest absurdities that have ever ornamented the columns of a vernacular journal." On the 12th instant, seven days later, it speaks of "the *Hochi Shinbun*, with customary good sense and accurate knowledge &c." What does it mean?

THE construction of a fort at Sarushima in Sagami will be shortly commenced.

THE Meiji Seimei Hoken Kwaisha (life insurance company) recently established has many subscribers, and during the month from July 9th, when it was established, to the 9th. instant, more than three hundred persons have entered into a contract with the company. The total amount insured is yen 200,000 and that of the monthly rates to be paid for that sum, is yen 6,000. The people in Osaka Nagasaki &c., are anxious for branches

to be established in those cities and towns. The success of the company shows the high estimation in which life insurance is at present held in this country.

THE *Mai Nichi Shinbun* extracts the following item from the *Hakodate Shinbun* :—Messrs. Sugiura, Sano, Tanaka, Kobayashi, and Fujino, in conjunction with 26 other rich merchants at Hakodate intend to establish a Steamship Company named the *Hokkaido Unyu Kwaisha*. They have decided to apply to the Kaitakushi to purchase its steamers and godowns, and Mr. Tsuneno has been appointed a commissioner to carry out this resolution.

His Excellency Li Shu-chang, at present Chargé d'Affaires at Madrid, to be Chinese Minister in Japan, succeeding the late Minister, who recently left Tokio.

WE have been asked by several sufferers to call the attention of owners of dogs to the nuisance some of these animals are at night. The noises of the settlement grow indistinct towards sunset, and at 9 p.m. the bluff would be wrapt in silence if it were not for the dogs. Last evening was an instance. One dog kept up a shrill treble yelp and howl combined, from nine last evening to three this morning. Other dogs at greater distances could be heard at frequent intervals joining in a sustained chorus of loud and angry barks. This evil is not confined to any one part of the bluff, for our informants reside far from each other and in such situations as show that throughout the whole line of the hill the barking, yelping, and howling of fretful dogs is heard all the night long, proving extremely distressing to those in delicate health, and irritating in the highest degree to those who are compelled to submit to the infliction.

Dogs properly trained will not strain at the chain and bark when tied up, nor will they, except on rare occasions, make any noise when loose in the enclosure. Badly trained or untrained dogs, mongrels, and curs delight in making as much noise as possible. In the latter case, if a dog whip fails a little lead and gunpowder should be applied.

It is rumoured that the mother of the Empress Dowager is now dangerously ill. She is 73 years of age.

A QUESTION mooted in Yokohama at present, says the *Chiugai Bukka Shinpo*, is that the government intend to establish a central bank for the purpose of issuing bank notes convertible into specie; by this means, they propose to withdraw paper currency from circulation. The rumour appears not to be without foundation, for people who are selling specie in great quantities are said to have some connection with the government, and the Oriental Bank readily exchanges specie for paper money, which indeed has always been done at that bank. The *Choya Shinbun* also makes some remarks about paper tending to acquire the same value as specie. However, our contemporary adds, we cannot believe these reports, for although similar rumours have occasionally turned out to be true so that it is not altogether impossible to imagine that the government may establish a central bank, and if not, make some change in the value of paper, still we must take such things with caution. But, at all events, specie not falling down from heaven nor springing out from the earth, it is quite impossible to easily increase its amount.

A GREAT alteration is about to be made in the management of the naval department. H.E. Kawamura, minister of it, is very busily occupied in making preparations for the re-organization.

THE Kamaishi is the most important of all iron mines in Japan, but the method of working it being still imperfect, the yield is so small that if rails are made by the iron worked out during one whole year at the mine, they are hardly sufficient to construct a line of ten *ri* in length.

WE may take this opportunity of drawing attention to a book recently published at home entitled "Fourteen Months in Canton," by Mrs. Gray, wife of Archdeacon Gray, the author of several well-known works on China. It is the republication of a series of letters written to friends in Europe from week to week while impressions were fresh and strong. The wife of a clergyman who was thoroughly acquainted with Chinese customs and language, and who, moreover, had numerous friends among the natives, Mrs. Gray was afforded opportunities for seeing the inner and family life of the Chinese which are exceedingly rare. Hence, besides the ordinary sights such as temples, processions, festivals, &c., we are given descriptions of the lives of the Chinese women of various classes. It is almost too detailed to be useful as a guide-book for the visitor who intends staying only a few days in Canton; but we would strongly recommend it to the perusal of any one about to visit that remarkable city. Mrs. Gray writes with much vigour and descriptive power. We do not remember to have read anywhere so graphic a description of the method by which the small feet of Chinese ladies are produced, as well as their appearance :—

In the asylum for old women we met with many small footed women, and Henry was determined I should see one of those poor deformed feet unbandaged. An old woman, who heard what we required, said she would, if we gave her a kumshaw, take us to a house where a young woman, who had unusually small feet, was on a visit to its aged inmate. When we arrived at the door, we were surrounded by a crowd of old women. They knocked at the door and desired the young woman to speak to us. When she was told our errand, she looked very shy, and said that she could not unbandage her foot. We showed her a five cent piece, and she then consented to let "Nai-nai" go with her into her room and let me see her foot. But our friend, who much wished also to see it, attempted to accompany me, upon which the young woman refused to remove the bandages. So he was obliged to leave the house. In the meantime the old woman had placed a form for us outside the door, and they were most energetic in their endeavours to persuade the young woman to comply with our requests. In order to overcome her scruples, Henry told her that he and our friend were both old men, he with his white hair, and his friend wearing a long beard. They meant no harm he added. The old woman used these arguments secondhand with great vehemence. At last a string of one hundred cash, in value about five pence, was added to the first offer, and it was all put into the hand of the young woman. This temptation proved too strong for her to resist any longer, and she sat down upon the bench, removing her tiny embroidered shoe, and unrolled the bandage. This bandage takes the place of a stocking with all Chinese women who have contracted feet, and in the case of ladies it is made in bright coloured ribbon. The maimed foot was a sad sight, utterly deformed. The toes were crushed under the sole of the foot, reaching to the under parts of the big toe. They were sore and slightly bleeding, and the sole of the foot upon which they were crushed was also raw. The toes, (excepting the large toe) were not visible on the front of the foot. The heel was so much squeezed that it was square in shape and ended in a hard ridge of flesh. I saw a deep division between it and the sole. The crushed feet seldom heal, and from the young

woman's manner I am sure it hurt her much when she touched her foot, yet the bandage must be removed daily in order to wash the foot, else it would become most offensive. Nothing I have read or heard of the compression of the feet of Chinese females, made me fully realise how sad the custom is, until I saw this young woman's foot. The bandaging does not commence until the little girl is four or five years of age. The feet are then bound with a strip of calico. This is tightened by degrees until, after some years suffering, the poor feet are crushed into the desired shape. It is distressing, they say, to hear the screams of a little child, when the bandages are being removed, or when they are being drawn tighter. The ankle becomes a straight bone, and the leg loses all shape, and resembles a stilt. A Chinese lady looks elegant until she moves, when she loses all grace to our eyes (not though to the Chinese who consider the gait of a small-footed woman most elegant) as she toddles about, supporting herself on the arm of her attendant.

Our ancient friend *Punch* continues to hold his own amidst a heap of cheap, servile imitators, scarcely any of whom can compare in genuine wit and humour with the jovial old soul.

We are induced to make these remarks because such so-called comic publications are beginning to crop up in this part of the world. We have received the first number of *Quiz*, *The Shanghai Charivari*, a paper of the class above referred to, printed and published, for the proprietors, at the *Shanghai Mercury* office. We regret our inability to compliment the promoters of the venture upon either its style or "get up." The cartoons are indifferently executed, utterly pointless, and very far fetched. The letter-press consists almost entirely of wretched, doggerel rhymes which the writers probably call poetry, and intend to be witty. These Homeric strains might perhaps be intelligible to the Poet Laureate, whose last poem passed all comprehension, but to ordinary mortals, like ourselves, they are simply *vox et præterea nihil*. As for wit, all we can say is, that we fail to discover any. We would advise *Quiz* in future to supplement his effusions by a series of foot-notes indicating to his readers what passages are to be considered as funny, and what as serious.

If *Quiz* intends favoring the Shanghai public with any more poetry of the same sort as that contained in his first issue, as friends—that is, if he will consider us as such—we would strongly recommend him, before doing so, to diligently peruse *Punch's* advice to those about to marry and to be guided by the same. For the paper itself, the best wish we can offer is, that it may have a safe and speedy passage "over to the great majority" whither so many of its kindred have already gone.

By a telegram we learn that his Majesty the Mikado arrived at Fukushima yesterday at 11.20 a.m.

A PROPOSED new railway company in Kaga and Yechizen, called Toboku Tetsudo Kwaisha, projects first, to construct a line from Toyama in Yetchiu to Nagahama in Omi, and when this is completed, they intend to extend the line to Yokkaichi in Ise. Ex-Daimio, in those provinces through which the proposed railway will pass, are now making great exertions for raising a sufficient fund to carry out this great scheme.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* contains a third small instalment of a letter from "T.W." which we do not publish to-day because it seems as though fragmentary publication will entirely spoil that which promises to be a

communication of more than usual importance. We propose, therefore, to await the conclusion of the letter, when we will offer a careful translation in full to our readers.

WAKAYAMA-KEN being a province where horses and black cattle are very scarce, its inhabitants have usually spent about 700,000 yen annually for such species of animals, imported from other parts of the empire; but now Mr. Baba, in the Ken, intends to engage in pasturage, on a great scale, for rearing them, with a capital of 500,000 yen; his scheme is favoured by the people, and ample arrangements have been made for its inauguration; an application has therefore been sent to the government for permission.

THOSE, whoever they may be, who are entrusted with the duty of carrying out the existing sanitary arrangements of the settlement, cannot be complimented on the manner in which they execute the task. Truly, they must be either suffering from chronic colds in the head, or else their olfactory nerves are sadly out of order, for they appear to be either sublimely indifferent to, or altogether unconscious of, the condition of the drains in many of the thoroughfares. The odour frequently arising from them in no way reminds one of "Jockey Club" or "Ottar of Roses," and is certainly not calculated to stimulate the appetite or digestion of those who are compelled to inhale it. Yokohama has been free from epidemic disease this year; but unless this intolerable nuisance is speedily checked, an outbreak of cholera need occasion no surprise whatever. During the present hot weather, it may be inadvisable to open the drains, but they might certainly be flushed.

THE number of passengers in the government railway between Tokio and Yokohama during last month, was 195,862, and the total receipts on tickets and merchandise &c. Amounted to yen 50,629.339.

In a recent letter to *The Times* the Shanghai correspondent refers to a point connected with the interpretation of the "most favoured nation clause" in treaties which is of more than speculative interest to residents in the East. Referring to the convention recently concluded between China and Russia, he observes, that it is likely a *de jure* recognition will be given by China to the *de facto* existence of Russian places of business in the tea-districts. In that case, he thinks, the subjects of other powers would be entitled to claim similar rights. The construction which Chinese ministers abroad are instructed to put on the favoured nation clause is that "if China concedes any commercial or other advantage to Russia, the concession being burdened with conditions, no other country can claim a similar concession under that clause unless it is prepared to abide by the conditions."

It is curious that this point has not occurred more frequently than it has done in the interpretation of treaties. The favoured nation clause is generally in this form:—

"It is hereby expressly stipulated that the British government and its subjects will be allowed free and equal participation in all privileges, immunities, and advantages, that may be hereafter granted by His Majesty the Mikado to the government or subjects of any other nation."

If we look merely at the exact wording of this sentence, it would seem to imply that the country binding itself by a treaty containing it

agreed to grant British subjects, so long as the treaty lasted, all the rights or privileges at any time granted to the subjects of other countries, no matter what the consideration for which these rights or privileges were granted in the latter case, or whether British subjects were willing to abide by these conditions or not. But we think it will, on reflection, appear contrary to reason and the nature of things that any independent country would consent to bind its hands so completely as this reading of the clause would do. The more natural explanation would be that British subjects should be placed on the same footing as the subjects or citizens of other countries are or may be placed by similar treaties. The number of points to be referred to in an ordinary treaty of peace and commerce is so great, that the device of introducing the favoured nation clause to cover any possible omissions that may occur to subsequent negotiators of similar treaties seems to have been adopted.

To take an example. Let us for an instant assume that in the treaty of 1877 between Japan and America, the clause respecting the consent of other powers being obtained had been omitted, and that under that treaty the United States allowed Japan to place what duties she pleased on American goods, while Japan opened two ports to American citizens or trade. Would British subjects, or the subjects of other powers, be entitled to claim the same rights without paying the same price for them? It seems to us opposed to reason to hold the affirmative. To take an analogous case in ordinary life. A butcher contracts to sell his meat to a certain number of persons for twenty cents a pound, and further agrees that if he reduces the price for one he will do so for all. One of his customers, a tailor who has a stock of clothes on hand, agrees to give him a suit provided that for the ensuing year he will cut down the price of his, the tailor's, meat to fifteen cents. Are the others justified in claiming their meat at fifteen cents a pound, without giving a suit of clothes or its equivalent?

This question has already been the subject of discussion between the British and American governments with respect to the reciprocal treaty between the latter and the Sandwich Islands, admitting American goods at a reduced duty into the islands, while in return Hawaiian sugar was admitted on reciprocal terms into the United States. Of the correspondence which ensued it is only necessary to say that Great Britain withdrew from it after a short time, and thus practically acknowledged the justice of the interpretation of the favoured nation clause supported by the Hawaiian government.

We are glad to notice that in a paper recently laid before parliament, certain charges made at home against what is known as the mixed court at Shanghai have been refuted. These charges appeared in the *Pall Mall Gazette*. Their gravamen was that its course of procedure and punishment were characterised by Chinese barbarism, without the slightest trace of European humanity or civilization. Torture, it was stated, was frequently employed to extort confessions in the presence of the representative of one or other of the great powers, and it was suggested that the sooner we withdrew from participation in a tribunal which employed such methods, the better.

The mixed court, it will be remembered, is really a Chinese court for the various foreign settlements at Shanghai. According to the rules issued in 1869, and agreed to by the Tsung-li-Yamen in the previous year, an official having the rank of sub-prefect was to reside in the foreign settlement, and to have



jurisdiction in commercial suits, and in civil and criminal cases generally, between Chinese resident within the settlements, as well as between Chinese and foreigners, where the former were defendants. When a foreigner was concerned the consul of his nationality had power to nominate a deputy to sit with the sub-prefect, but he was in no way to interfere should no foreign interest be involved. The Chinese officer was furthermore authorised to "examine Chinese judicially, to detain them in custody, and to punish them by putting them in the cangue, flogging, and by minor punishment." Mr. Consul Allen denies *in toto* the statement that anything in the shape of torture to extort evidence takes place in the mixed court so long as the English assessor sits there. Prisoners are sentenced in the presence of the assessor, so that it is impossible afterwards to use strong measures to extort the names of their accomplices. During trial, also, they are placed in the hands of the municipal police, by whom of course, Chinese are as well treated as any foreigner. Flogging is administered in the usual manner, but only in cases of brutal violence, or irredeemable criminals; and the use of the cangue has also been much restricted. We can all heartily join with Sir Thomas Wade in deprecating hasty criticism of an institution which was only established after much opposition from the Chinese, and which has already done much to keep order among the natives in the foreign settlements. Its example also to other Chinese courts cannot fail to be useful in the long run.

SIR STAFFORD NORTHCOTE, with whom we have probably not very much in common, presided at the eighteenth anniversary dinner in aid of the Newspaper Press Fund. In proposing "Prosperity to the Newspaper Press Fund," at the close of an eloquent speech he made the following peroration:—

"I ask you to look upon that picture and upon the picture presented by the newspaper press of the present day, and to tell me if you can trace the faintest resemblance between the two. No; the work of the newspaper press now is of a high class and of a high character. We know what power the directors of the press wield. We know how in every department of politics, how even in general life, it is in their power to wield a mighty influence; how much good they may do, and how much, if they were so disposed, of evil they might effect; and it is greatly to their credit that, having this power, there should run through the great body of the English Press a spirit of truth, of justice, of loyalty, and of religious feeling in its broadest sense, which constitutes the surest guarantee for the continued greatness of the Empire."

So says one of the most prominent of living statesmen, and there can be no doubt that his opinion is more or less shared by the British government of the day as well as by the British public generally. But what do we see in this part of the world? Nothing more nor less, if we can believe the self-created organ of the government, than a manifest desire to burke the English press in Japan and to control its utterances. Nay, more, there are those who have gone so far as to suggest to the Japanese authorities to exercise their right of censorship and suppression over a power they are erroneously supposed to both fear and hate. It is hard to believe such things are possible amongst an English community in the latter half of this nineteenth century of grace.

THE following are the chief points of an application sent by Mr. Mayeda, a kwazoku,

and others to the government for constructing railways in the Hokurikudo, extracted from the *Choya Shinbun*.

Privileges to be granted to the *Toboku Tetsudo Kwaisha*.

1.—All government lands and buildings required by the company for lines, stations, godowns, &c. of the railways, to be granted to the company free.

2.—All private lands and buildings required for the same purpose to be first purchased by the government according to the usual rule, and then sold to the company.

3.—All lands required by railways to be exempted from taxes.

*Note.*—These three items are the same as those made by the *Nippon Tetsudo Kwaisha*.

4.—When the company is established, either before or after commencing its operations, if there be no receipts or its net profit is below 8 per cent. of its capital, the government to give a supplementary aid to cover the deficiency; the period during which the government gives such aid to the two lines from Yanagase in Omi to Toyama in Yetchu, and from Naga-hama in Omi to Yokkaichi in Ise to be twenty years. In other lines, the periods for the grant of such aid to be settled hereafter.

5.—Until the whole of the lines are thoroughly constructed, they are to be divided into several sections by permission of the government, and accounts of profit and loss in each section are to be kept separately, and also of grants in aid when they are required. If the government grant these privileges, the company promises to keep the following conditions:—

6.—The plan of construction and the estimate of cost to be settled by permission of the government and the work to be examined by them.

7.—The company to allow the government to examine occasionally or periodically all account books of works and business.

8.—After 99 years from the establishment of the company, the government to have the liberty to buy the railways at any time.

9.—In the event of war, the government to have the liberty to use the railways for their own purposes, on the payment of a proper compensation.

10.—The rate of passage, &c. to be fixed by permission of the government.

*Note.*—These conditions are the same as those proposed by the *Nippon Tetsudo Kwaisha*.

The amount of capital already raised is yen 486,000 which has been subscribed by the projectors alone; of which yen 202,000 were contributed by Mr. Mayeda Toshitsugu.

OUR neighbours in Hongkong and elsewhere are wont to complain very bitterly of the "masterly inactivity" of their noble army of police. Judging from the following, it would seem that our own brave guardians of the peace are not quite as energetic as they might be in the protection of public and private property. During the night of Saturday last, a window of a godown, on Lot No. 74, in the very heart of the settlement, was broken open, the bars wrenched away, and 15 bags (each containing one picul) of sugar taken clean away. So much for the vigilance of the Yokohama police. Query, how many policemen have we; what are their wages and who is responsible for their efficiency and prompt performance of duty?

Since writing the foregoing we have made some enquiries concerning the pay of policemen. Their wages are ridiculously small, the rates (including clothing) being as follows:—

Senior ... ..	Yen 10
Junior ... ..	" 9
Second Class ... ..	" 8
Third " ... ..	" 7
Fourth " ... ..	" 6

In the name of common sense, what kind of policemen are we likely to get for such paltry salaries? What amount of vigilance, or even honesty, can we possibly expect? We say "honesty," because the receipt of "gratifications"—as they are euphemistically called—is a very common practice amongst policemen in all parts of the world. It is an admitted axiom that "gratifications" are given to policemen, not for the performance of duty, but for its neglect—to close their eyes and ears at times when they ought to be wide open. Policemen, like the rest of mankind, must live—honestly if they can—but anyhow they must live. Finding that the wretched pittance doled out to them monthly will not enable them to make both ends meet, what wonder is it if, now and again, they should seek to add to their slender incomes by taking a bribe to connive at sundry fractures of the eighth commandment—or the sixth either for that matter.

If we are to have good policemen we must pay for them. The rates above named will certainly not secure the genuine article—an article that will guard our houses from being burnt down or broken into and our throats from being cut. In fact, an article that will be a "terror to evildoers."

ANOTHER "Richmond is in field." We have received "the first number of the first Portuguese journal ever published in the country." The young aspirant to public favour is style *O Argus, Jornal Litterario e Noticiozo*. In his opening address the editor says:—

"The object of the enterprise is to further the views of the few Portuguese residents in Japan, who will now have a journal of their own, through which their grievances, if any, can be made public; and also to promote and stimulate literature amongst them for which purpose the columns of this journal, which will be read by our countrymen on distant shores, will always be opened to correspondents and literary contributors."

The paper, though small, is evidently got up with care in the midst of many disadvantages, and is certainly worth the modest price (\$1 per month) charged for it.

We wish our young contemporary every success and prosperity.

DEARTH of subject is a chronic complaint under which most journals in the far east are continually labouring. The Israelites of old found it a difficult matter to make bricks without straw, but they had to do it nevertheless. A similar herculean task confronts journalists in this part of the world when they have nothing to write about and have still to publish their paper with the utmost regularity. In such a dilemma many curious expedients are often resorted to; but the one recently adopted by two contemporaries has at least the charm of novelty. Nevertheless, the discussion they have been pursuing is as absurd as it is offensive. It is not for them to decide how many papers may or may not be published in any place. As there are two sides to most questions there appears to be no reason why there may not be two papers to represent such sides. This however, affords no pretext for any journal becoming the tool or hireling of any party. A community that can support two papers would find no difficulty in making room for a

third, conducted on independent principles, and not afraid to express its convictions boldly, fearlessly and honestly. Be that as it may, it is not for any journal to say which of its contemporaries should or should not retire from the field. On that question, the public, and the public alone, are both judges and umpires. By their verdict we must stand or fall.

Papers who fill their columns with the senseless trash above referred to, not only make themselves ridiculous, but weary and disgust their readers *ad nauseam*. Their best policy is to put a stop to it at once and for ever.

THE following letter, which has been addressed to the *Japan Mail*, is published by request of the writer:—

SIR,—In a leading article in your issue of August 10th, which discusses the press laws, it is said:—"The government under which the Japanese live, not being a foreign one, 'foreigners' resident in Japan have no right to violate the laws of that government on the 'ground that they are foreigners.'" From this sentence, taken in connection with the whole tenor of article, it would seem to be the fact, according to your opinion, that Japanese laws also, and not Sir Harry Parkes' enactment only, are opposed to the publication of vernacular periodicals by foreigners.

If this is the fact, then it is quite worthy of discussion whether the *Shichi Ichi Zappo* is published by foreigners, as it is, under their rights as American citizens, or simply by permission of Japanese law.

If the former supposition is true, then a grave inequality has been laid on British citizens in this country by Sir Harry Parkes' now somewhat famous enactment; and American missionaries, according to the *Japan Mail*, are guilty of violating Japanese law, which they "have no right" to do.

If the latter supposition holds good, then either Sir Harry's enactment was a superfluous piece of arbitrariness on his part; or Japanese law is highly flexible, permitting American citizens to do what is forbidden to Englishmen.

There is matter here for an interesting discussion of a sharply pressing and practical nature.

A straightforward answer, free from that silly *persiflage* which you so persistently condemn would, I am sure, valued by most foreigners here, and no organ is so well qualified to deal with such a question as the recognised mouth-piece of the Japanese government.

Yours, &c.,

HENRY FAULDS.

Tokio, 13th August.

THE *Ohingai Bunka Shinpo* has the following item:—We see in some paper that a first secretary of the treasury recently appointed, left Japan for Europe *via* America, and we believe this is true, for we heard the same report sometime ago. He is the first ardent advocate of the direct trade scheme. We do not know what mission he has in his present journey, but according to a rumour, he was sent to examine the commercial systems in foreign countries. This rumour, we are inclined to doubt, for such business belongs to the agricultural and commercial department and not to the treasury. However, as he has always made great exertions to carry out direct trade, the report may be true. The government certainly have a fixed and great object

in despatching him to foreign countries, supposing that he was sent to enquire into foreign commerce, but not on so small a pretext as that afforded by the direct trade now existing in this country.

If this is the case, greater or less changes may be expected in our foreign commerce either for good or bad. We are very anxious to see what they will be, because they must produce some effect upon us either for good or evil.

It was telegraphed that His Majesty the Mikado, left Sendai yesterday at 7.55 a.m.

MR. YOSHII, vice-minister of the public works department is said to have resigned his office for the purpose of accepting an offer made to him of the presidency of the Nippon Tetsudo Kwaisha, but we are unable to say whether this rumour is true or not.

WE hear that the abolition of the Kaitakushi and the organization of ken in its place in the Hokkaido has been decided by the cabinet. A notification announcing this change will be published towards the end of next month, and officials of the Kaitakushi in the hannin rank will shortly be transferred to other departments.

THE letter addressed by Dr. Faulds to the *Japan Mail*, contains matter vitally affecting the position that journal has assumed towards the foreign press; and it is with intense surprise and disappointment we observe the *Mail* evades the point at issue by an utterly unworthy subterfuge.

THE *Japan Mail* again states "in the most distinct and unequivocal terms, that it is in no possible sense the mouth-piece of the Japanese government." If it is not a government organ, what is it? Whenever any other journal prints any item of news referring to government movements, the *Mail* rushes in with flat and unqualified contradiction. Whence is its superior knowledge derived? We repeat, without hesitation or reservation, that if the *Mail* is not the mouth-piece of the Japanese government, its contradictions of other journals are simply worthless denials without foundation or argument.

How very easily a newspaper may be made the tool of designing persons and become thoroughly ridiculous in the eyes of the public, is demonstrated by a recent article on "Financial Reforms." We are told:—

So far as the necessity for some remedial measures in the matter of paper currency is concerned, it were needlessly circumspect to conjecture only that the Japanese government is fully sensible of its responsibilities.

If the government are fully sensible of their responsibilities in the matter of currency, how does it come to pass that they have, seemingly blindly, ignored the warnings of reason and experience uttered during the past five years, and pursued every empirical and pernicious scheme which has been laid before them by advisers more ignorant than themselves? How does it come to pass that, sensible of their responsibilities, they allow the valuable Kaitakushi property to be disposed of for a sham payment? These questions naturally suggest themselves to all who, understanding the position, cannot be misled by assertions that the government are "sensible of their responsibility."

THE Tokio vernacular journals have of late ventilated sundry rumours about the

establishment of a monster government bank. . . . We have made careful inquiry into the facts, and find, as indeed experience had led us to anticipate, that our native contemporaries are as usual vibrating between reality and phantasmagoria.

The bank, however, shorn of its monster proportions, is likely, we understand, soon to become an accomplished fact. The Specie Bank (Shokin Ginko) is to be raised to the dignity of a national institution <sup>(1)</sup>, its present capital—three millions (silver yen) <sup>(2)</sup> being increased by an equal sum in specie <sup>(3)</sup>, while its functions will be extended so as to embrace foreign exchange operations, and equal facilities will be afforded to clients of all nationalities. The Specie Bank will cease in short to cater to the convenience of internal trade only <sup>(4)</sup>, and will enter the field on the same footing as that of any other foreign bank in this settlement <sup>(5)</sup>.

Analysing this statement, the following points suggest themselves:—(1). Has not the Specie Bank been a national institution from its foundation, seeing that the government took up one-third of the shares and guaranteed the remainder of the capital? (2). Its present capital is not three millions of silver yen. The original mode of providing capital was peculiar, and may be briefly recapitulated here, though no doubt our contemporary will know that the version we give is incorrect. The capital of the bank was fixed at 3,000,000 silver yen, of which the government subscribed for 1,000,000, and paid up 200,000 on February 27th, 1880. 2,000,000 were supposed to be subscribed for by the public, and it is said 400,000 called up was duly paid. This left capital at call 2,400,000; of which the government had to provide 800,000 and shareholders 1,600,000. The latter was provided for by shareholders depositing currency in return for *shokin-kosai-shosho* (specie bonds) delivered *at par* by the national debt bureau. These bonds were deposited in the treasury, the minister of which then guaranteed that whenever silver was required by the bank it should be forthcoming. Plainly, if shareholders have paid up 400,000 silver yen, they have paid no more; while it is equally clear that if the bank ever had a larger sum of capital in hand to work with than 600,000 yen it must have come out of the treasury, which has accepted the liability for 2,600,000 yen of the specie capital; and yet this bank is only now "to be raised to the dignity of a national institution!" (3) Where is "the equal sum in specie" to increase the capital to come from? In November last there were only 12,000,000 yen in specie in the treasury, and a large portion of that has been since exported without any corresponding income. Can the government, after giving away the rich properties of the Kaitakushi, contemplate a gift to the Specie Bank of the balance of money left in the treasury? (4) When did the Specie Bank confine its operations to internal trade only? Such a career would have been diametrically opposed to the principle of its formation, which was to further direct foreign trade of which several instances are extant of tea shipments to the United States, which not only lost heavily for the bank, but caused every foreign merchant to suffer on unsold shipments; while the reaction is felt by the native tea dealer to-day in the shape of lower prices. (5) If the Specie Bank is to enter the field on the same footing as that of any other foreign bank in the settlement it will be warmly welcomed, but upon the same conditions as its foreign compeers, namely, that full particulars of its proprietary, directorate, capital subscribed and paid up,

reserves, audited accounts, and all other information, be made as public as, say for instance, are the affairs of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. If these rules are not observed, the Specie Bank will have no standing at all, and will rapidly fall to the position of a discreditable interloper in respectable society.

A BANK conducted upon straightforward business principles, may do a great deal in a useful direction, and will certainly not be open to any of the grave objections justly urged against the sometime facility of the treasury.

Will the writer of the above quoted paragraph be good enough to explain the difference between money direct from the treasury, and money indirectly from the treasury through the agency of the Specie Bank?

WE look, however, with no little curiosity for some decision as to the *personnel* of the new bank. The probability, nay the very possibility of its success, depends in the main upon the fashion of its management.

If the bank is to be anything like what its projectors hope, and what its prospects reasonably entitle them to expect, it will be able to afford a competent foreign staff. A gentleman combining business capabilities of a sufficiently high standard with at least a tolerable experience of the East, may not be easy to find, but if such an one were entrusted &c.

Surely our contemporary knew the field was Japan, and the bank an institution to handle money, and intended to take a position of equality with foreign banks. Did no other qualifications than business capability and experience seem necessary for the manager of such an undertaking? Are honour, integrity, reputation nothing? And yet without these qualities it will be easier for a man blind and lame to ascend Fujiyama than for the Specie Bank to prosper.

THE article is no doubt meant to be didactic; it has all the impertinence of assumption to lead to that conclusion; but it reads, to those who understand the matter dealt with, like a series of ill-timed jokes.

In a recent issue we had occasion to take the *Hongkong Telegraph* to task for using some very unjournalistic language towards the *China Mail*. The files of the former paper which have just come to hand enable us to gain a clearer insight into the line of policy pursued by our young contemporary than we previously possessed, though from the first, we never had much doubt as to his ulterior object—the justification of Governor Hennessy.

There can be no question, in the minds of impartial observers, that Sir John Pope Hennessy is about as unpopular in Hongkong as he can well be—that is, with such of its inhabitants as have the misfortune to be Europeans and not Chinese. The latter have been uniformly pampered whilst the former have been continually exasperated beyond endurance. A glance at the files of the Hongkong papers for the past four or five years will be sufficient to convince the most sceptical how obstructive has been the system of government carried out by the present strong-minded ruler of that colony.

That the *China Mail* may have erred in judgment occasionally is quite possible. Nevertheless it has always been thoroughly consistent in its conduct. Honestly believing Sir John Pope Hennessy to be the worst enemy the colony could possibly have it has, from first to last, most resolutely opposed his policy and

condemned his actions, but never, so far as we have been able to observe, without being able to give "chapter and verse" for its assertions and criticisms. The *Hongkong Daily Press*, hitherto somewhat uncertain in its utterances, has at length followed suit with the *China Mail*, and in a series of vigorous, outspoken articles, has taken his Excellency most roundly to task.

Pitying the forlorn condition of his Excellency, the *Hongkong Telegraph* sprang, mushroom like, into existence and came to the rescue and, as the apologist of governor Hennessy, he certainly cuts a very poor figure, for nothing can possibly be more indiscreet than the manner in which he endeavours to whitewash his idol. The *China Mail* had certainly much better have refrained from referring to Sir John's antecedents in Barbadoes but the *Telegraph*, by re-producing garbled extracts of speeches made as far back as 1876 by Lords Carnarvon and O'Hagan and Mr. Forster in the House of Lords and House of Commons respectively has, if anything, only made a bad matter worse. At any rate, he has in no way strengthened the position of the object of his admiration.

As far as we are able to judge, the position of the *Hongkong Telegraph* is neither a comfortable nor an enviable one. He reminds us of a barrister holding a brief in a hopeless case already more than part heard, the judge uttering the closing words of his charge and the jury prepared to give their verdict. Governor Hennessy, according to the usual rule of crown colonies, is in the last months of his tenure of office; he has been weighed in the balance and found wanting and the verdict of public opinion is certainly against him. A short time longer, and he will have taken leave of Hongkong followed by the good wishes of his friends and many weary sighs of relief from the community of that colony generally. Where then will be the unfortunate *Hongkong Telegraph*? His occupation, like Othello's, will be—gone.

Seriously speaking, if our young contemporary wishes to prolong his existence beyond the departure of Sir John Pope Hennessy, and to possess any degree of power and influence amongst the Hongkong public, he will have to change his tactics very considerably and as speedily as possible.

THE *Mainichi Shinbun* announces that according to a recent advice from Osaka, the price of silver yen has extraordinarily fallen in that city; recent quotation was 1.535 and the tendency was still to fall.

THE report of the Japanese government, showing the estimated revenue and expenditure for the 14th. financial year has been recently published by notification No. 67 of the Daijo Kwan.

Two out of five bridges lying on the railway line now in construction, between Tsuruga and Otsu, are already built, and materials for the remaining three are being prepared at the railway office in Kobe.

THE San Francisco *Evening Bulletin* appraises the territory of King Kalakaua at a very low estimate, considers it to be in the market, and that it might be knocked down to the highest bidder:—

"The King of the Sandwich Islands has about the most shadowy royalty now in existence. The territory over which he rules may be more extensive, but his seat is not half so firm as that of the Prince of Monaco.

The American settlers on the islands could at any time start a revolution, against which he could make no headway. What he has to sell is therefore of the most attenuated character. It only acquires substance by the fact of a presumed jealousy on the part of other nations. England or France might object to our taking possession after the Texan method. But there does not appear to be any objection to purchase. That is the modern way of securing new lands. We bought Alaska from Russia. Two giants were engaged in a trade, and no nation felt called upon to interfere. But in the case of the United States and the Sandwich Islands the matter is different. It is a trade between a giant and a pigmy, with other jealous giants looking on. There is not much matter what China or Japan may think of the transaction. But we have a better right to the Sandwich Islands than any European nation. It is exceedingly probable, seeing the extent and value of our possessions on the Pacific, that we should not allow any European nation to take them. Kalakaua, therefore, if he is bent on a trade, has something which, practically speaking, he can only sell to the United States. That is no reason why he should be compelled to part with his royalty at unremunerative figures. One of his predecessors was very anxious to sell to the United States, and it is probable that the relations between us and the islands will be brought to that point. The latter are at this moment practically part of our country."

It is all very well for our contemporary to say that America has a better right to the Sandwich Islands than any European nation, but such a position cannot be maintained for, if His Majesty is anxious to sell his "shadowy royalty" (which we rather doubt) one nation has as much right to buy it as another. Any how, there is not likely to be much competition for a bargain of the "most attenuated character."

THE *Bulletin* asserts that purchase "is the modern way of securing new lands." Not always. Annexation seems to be the order of the day with the British government. Let us endeavour to find out a correct definition for the term. "Who steals my purse steals trash," nevertheless the delinquent is sent to prison for the offence. If A trespasses on B's land, the latter hauls the former before a justice of the peace and that functionary fines him. But if one nation forcibly invades another's territory and appropriates a large portion of it, the transaction is euphemistically styled "annexation" and is considered to be a great stroke of diplomacy. Where is the appreciable difference between the three cases? We can see none.

BUT let that pass. Now for a word or two concerning Kalakaua himself. His Majesty may be, and no doubt is, a very estimable man and a most enlightened monarch—in his way; but that circumstance affords no reason for the sickening amount of flattery and adulation which has been lavished on him throughout his progress. The ultra-Radical papers at home are wont to describe the British as a "nation of flunkies;" and well they may, seeing how ready we are to fall down and worship anything and everything in the shape of royalty. How this sable potentate must have laughed in his sleeve at the manner in which "free-born Britishers" cringed and fawned before him here, in China, the Straits and elsewhere.



All this homage is manifestly misplaced. By an exchange telegram which we published in our issue of the 17th inst., it would appear that king Kalakaua—to put it mildly—is one who—as *Junius* somewhere says—“can see no reason why a man may not unite the public virtues of Cato with the indulgence of Epicurus;” whilst one of our American contemporaries, in an article too long to reproduce, most plainly indicates His Majesty to be anything but a stranger to the delights which Bacchus affords to his constant worshippers.

THE British brig *Otto* changed her flag on Friday, and was transferred to her new Japanese owners.

THE German schooner *Annie* has discharged the whole of her cargo and is undergoing repairs.

WE understand that the writer of the article on Japan in the forthcoming number of the *Encyclopædia Britannica* is Mr. T. R. H. McClatchie of H. M. consular service. One or two other well-known gentlemen at present in England were unable to undertake the work.

THE publication, on the 13th. instant, of the consular returns of trade of the port of Yokohama for the year 1880, enables us to present the usual summary of the foreign commerce of Japan for a period of thirteen years, 1868 to 1880 inclusive.

Pressure of time and want of space compel us to defer some comments suggested by the compilation of these returns.

By an exchange telegram which we published yesterday, it appears that Mr. Bradlaugh intends to carry his point *vi et armis*, and by this time has either done so, or has been lodged in “durance vile.” Mr. Bradlaugh is a man with whom we have not much sympathy; his flippant atheism is repulsive, and his manner of conducting his case singularly coarse and offensive. Nevertheless he has the merit of being thoroughly honest and straightforward in his convictions and is, so far, entitled to respect. The privilege he contends for is that which belongs of right to every Englishman duly returned by a majority of his constituency to serve in Parliament. He is ready and willing to take the prescribed oath though he prefers the affirmation; but hitherto they have not allowed him to go through either ceremony. It is useless to repeat all the arguments which have been used on either side. The position of the junior member for Northampton must be perfectly understood by our readers. We may however, be permitted to offer a few remarks concerning the relative value of affirmation and oath-taking.

The Act of Parliament now in force seems to exempt only two classes of objectors from attestation which are typically represented by Quakers and Moravians.

The Moravians object to take an oath on the ground that they consider it to be a relic of barbarism and therefore entirely out of place amongst a civilized nation.

The Quaker demurs on a totally different ground. He understands the injunction “swear not at all” in its literal sense alone; he understands neither equivocation nor prevarication—though by the way, unless they are sadly maligned Quakers are wont sometimes to “palter in a double sense” in worldly matters, but that is neither here nor there—nor any subtleties of speech. It is no use telling

him that the Divine command does not include judicial swearing; he never can be made to understand that “not at all” may be made to mean “sometimes.” He knows as well as most people that negatives are very awkward parts of speech to deal with, and that no attempt can be made to modify their signification without destroying it altogether. The Quaker has a great deal of reason on his side. But then he is not “orthodox.”

Advocates of attestation assert that an oath is, or ought to be, more binding on a person's conscience than an affirmation, because, by violating it, the Divine wrath is incurred. This may be, no doubt; but we confess to being rather sceptical on the point. Depend upon it the knowledge that a conviction of “wilful and corrupt perjury” entails fine and incarceration has a great deal to do with inducing a sworn witness to keep to the terms of his oath. People seem to lose sight of the fact that a Quaker or a Moravian who has “affirmed,” if he is caught tripping, can be punished quite as severely as though he were attested.

With a man of honor his word is his bond. His oath can be no more. Mr. Bradlaugh has distinctly stated that the oath or affirmation, whichever he takes, will be binding on his conscience. His only reason for preferring the latter is, because the words of the former in which the Supreme Being is invoked, are utterly meaningless to him. Strange to say his objection holds good in a law court but not in the House of Commons. One not learned in these matters would naturally imagine that what a legal tribunal might do, the assembly in which all laws are made might also do, but it seems not; an exception is thereby made to the truth of Euclid's axiom, “the greater includes the less.”

Honestly speaking, there appears to be every reason for making some change in the law as speedily as possible. Since the punishment for violation is the same in either case; since both are, or ought to be, equally binding on the conscience, and since it would put a stop to a great deal of hypocrisy, not to say duplicity, the alternative of attestation or affirmation ought to be allowed to everyone who has a valid reason for demanding it, both in the House and in a court of justice.

IN March last we discussed in these columns the expense of Japanese diplomatic and consular representation abroad, pointing out its excessive cost, as compared with that of other countries, and with the interests to be guarded. We made, at the same time, certain suggestions for a considerable reduction in the expense, the chief being the amalgamation of all the European missions into three, or at the most four, establishments. We believe it is intended by the government to reduce their diplomatic service largely so soon as some result of the present negotiations for a revision of the treaties is attained; but we may now call attention to the practice of the Chinese in this respect. The commercial and political interests of China are, of course, vast compared with those of Japan; nevertheless we find that the envoy in Berlin has also been accredited to the courts of Vienna, Rome, and the Hague, precisely the change which we suggested for Japan. The minister in London is also accredited to Paris, and, we believe to St. Petersburg. There is, it is true, a Chinese mission in Madrid, which also does the work connected with Portugal; but it must be remembered that the colony at Macao has a special effect on the relations between China and the latter country; while the representative to Spain was specially sent to come to some understanding with the Spanish government respecting the

treatment of Chinese in Cuba. Blue-books and other papers have made us familiar with the horrible treatment to which the Chinese are subject at the hand of the Spanish peoples in South America and Cuba, and the efforts of their government to ameliorate their condition is praiseworthy in the highest degree. Nor should it be forgotten that China is a wealthy country which can easily afford a few embassies; and although Japan is, unhappily, in a very different position, she might in this respect advantageously imitate the example of her more opulent neighbour.

DR. G. A. VON KLÖDEN in a recent article in *Petermann's Mittheilungen* on the Loochoo islands, gives us some information respecting this archipelago which we have not seen before, and which we shall summarise here. A Chinese literati Su-pao-kwang was sent in 1719 to the islands as ambassador, and collected their annals up to the year 1713. According to him the main island, Okinawa, was formed into a single kingdom in 1430, but subsequently was again subdivided into three. The chief of these was the centre Töung-san, to which the whole east coast and a third of the west coast belonged; the southern, San-lam, and the northern, San-pok, were not of much importance. The history of Loochoo exhibits the curious anomaly that the islands were tributary both to Japan and China simultaneously. The first king is named in mythology Theen-sun, or the grandson of Heaven. He was succeeded by twenty-five dynasties. In the time of the Japanese emperor Takakura, who reigned from 1169 to 1180, Minamoto Tametomo, who was banished to Vries island, went to Loochoo and there married. At that time the twenty-five original dynasties of the old ruling house of Theen-sun were overthrown by a powerful vassal named Le-yung. Tametomo's son placed himself at the head of the loyal party, conquered Le-yung, and ascended the throne himself in 1187. During his reign, which lasted until 1238, the Loochooans received an alphabet, and learned to read and write. After this for many years the islands enjoyed peace and prosperity.

Under the Chinese dynasties Siu and Tang (581-907 A.D.) Loochoo endured many hostile invasions from China. In the year 1291, again, the Chinese emperor resuscitated his ancient claims on the islands; but the fleet which he sent never got farther than the west coast of Formosa, and then returned to Fok-hien. In 1368 a ruler of the Ming dynasty sent an envoy to the king of Loochoo for the purpose of concluding a treaty of friendship. It was at this time that the first political relations between China and Loochoo commenced. From 1395 onwards every king of Loochoo received his investiture from the ruler of the middle kingdom. At the commencement of the 17th century the Loochooan minister Yana, who was anxious to stand well with the Emperor of China, advised his sovereign to break off all communication with Japan, and the Loochooan ships no longer went to that country. The Prince of Satsuma, Shimadzu Iyehisa, sent an envoy to demand explanations, and to require the presence of the king in Japan. The latter, however, refused, and the result was the invasion of the islands in March 1609 by a Japanese fleet and 8,000 troops. After a few months the capital was taken by storm, the king was taken prisoner to Kagoshima and kept there for two years. He was then, as a reward for his excellent behaviour in captivity, sent back to his kingdom and again placed on the throne. The Prince of Satsuma became the suzerain of

the islands, and remained so up to recent years. A condition annexed to the restoration of the king was that henceforth, though the Prince of Satsuma as intermediary, investiture should be granted by the Shogun to the kings of Loochoo, and also that every new king should send an Embassy of thanks to Yedo. From 1611 up to 1850 fifteen such embassies were sent. It is curious also to notice that when Iyeyasu desired to renew relations with China, the Loochooans were forced to act as media and take letters to the Chinese; no answer was received by them, but numerous Chinese merchants returned to Japan after this.

Notwithstanding all this, Loochoo continued paying tribute to China. In 1663 the great Kang-hi received the tribute and embassy, and sent in return valuable presents which his father had set aside for the king of Loochoo. A Tartar ambassador went with them, and after his arrival the king, Tchang-tche was installed with much rejoicing king of Loochoo and tributary of the Manchu Empire. This emperor paid an attention to the islands which had never yet been bestowed on them by any ruler of China. He had a palace erected there to the honour of Confucius, and established a school for the spread of Chinese learning; he requested that, in future, sandalwood, spices and other articles not produced in the islands, should not be sent, but instead a fixed quantity of tin, copper, mother of pearl, &c. In 1708 the palace of the king was destroyed by fire; hurricanes committed unheard of devastations; a cattle-plague raged through the country, and the people themselves suffered from epidemics. The generous Kang-hi bestowed such assistance on the people through all these disasters that his name is still remembered with the liveliest gratitude.

We may pass over the remainder of the paper which deals with recent events in Loochoo. With these we are, unfortunately, too familiar. The major portion dealing with the relations between Japan and the archipelago has also been omitted, as the facts mentioned there can be found in many publications; more especially, for the mythological and semi-historical periods, in a series of articles entitled *Audi alteram partem* which appeared in the *Japan Gazette* in December of 1879 and January 1880.

The Russian telegraphic lines have been interrupted since yesterday.

Our young contemporary the *Argus*, whatever else he may lack, is by no means deficient in pluck. In his issue of the 20th. inst. he comments in strong terms on the sublime indifference displayed by the government of Portugal towards the interests of its subjects dwelling in this remote corner of the far east. He points out the curious anomaly and absurdity of the Plenipotentiary and Ambassador for Portugal being also governor of Macao, a colony far remote from Japan. The consequence of this piece of pluralism is, that the fortunate official holding the dual appointment has always either been unable or unwilling to pay even a flying visit to this country for the purpose of presenting his credentials to H. I. M. the Mikado, or of ascertaining the wants and requirements of his compatriots, for whom he probably cares as much as he does for the man in the moon. In plain English, the Portuguese minister for Japan draws a comfortable salary in return for duties which he leaves to take care of themselves.

The *Argus* complains with much reason of Portuguese consuls being selected from amongst foreign merchants who, in addition to being absorbed in their own affairs, cannot even speak a word of the language of the country and people they are supposed to represent and whose interests they are paid to protect. Our contemporary goes on to say that when Mr. J. J. Keswick first assumed charge of the Portuguese consulate, he planted a large flagstaff in front of the establishment of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. which cost the government of Portugal the neat little sum of \$300. A circular was then sent round inviting all Portuguese subjects to be present on a certain day at 8 a.m. to witness the imposing ceremony of hoisting their national flag. In response to this, a small sprinkling of Portuguese, three Englishmen, one lady and sundry Japanese put in an appearance at the time and place named. The flag was slowly and solemnly raised, either with or without cheers from the assembled multitude—the writer is not explicit on this point—but certainly amidst a royal salute of champagne corks, as that soul-inspiring beverage “which maketh glad the heart of man” was most freely and liberally served to the guests. The day's festivities were destined to be soon and sadly damped. On the following morning the worthy Portuguese consul, his guests, the flagstaff and the flag were all most mercilessly caricatured and ridiculed in the *Yokohama Punch*! Whether through lack of courtesy or through absence of mind it is impossible to say, but when Mr. Keswick took his departure for Shanghai he never gave the slightest intimation to Portuguese subjects of his intention to quit these shores; the flagstaff remained in its place but the flag was *non est*, having probably accompanied the illustrious diplomatist on his travels. Indeed, had it not been for a notice signed by Mr. E. Pereira, which appeared in the *Japan Gazette* some days later, Portuguese might have remained in ignorance to this hour that the chancellery of their consulate had been removed to No. 62.

Such in brief is the substance of our contemporary's remarks, and we are disposed to agree with him that the interests of his countrymen have been regarded with something very like contemptuous indifference by their home government.

The *Argus* is indignant at an assertion recently made by the *Japan Mail* that the Portuguese government permits gambling and gambling houses. The former flatly contradicts the statement and intimates to the latter, in most unequivocal terms, that he is venturing an opinion on a subject of which he is profoundly ignorant.

The *Argus* goes on to explain that the colony of Macao is an exception to the rule. There, gambling and gambling houses have to be tolerated as a necessary evil in the same manner as was once the case in Hongkong.

As we were in Hongkong at the time, we happen to know something of the “objects and reasons” for passing the much-abused gambling ordinance in that colony. Sir Richard MacDonnell, the then governor, seeing that the vice was inherent in the Chinese nature and that it only too often led to disastrous consequences, resolved to endeavour to place it under due restriction. He knew quite well that he could no more extinguish it than he could put out the fires of *Ætna* or *Vesuvius* and therefore tried to limit it as much as possible,

to licensed gambling houses. Whether the measure was a wise one cannot well be determined as it never had a fair trial. Before the first year of its existence had expired, merchants, bankers and ministers of religion clamoured most bitterly against it. They represented their case most strongly to the governor and to the Colonial office and the result was that the obnoxious ordinance was repealed. The Macao government seem to have remained firm in a matter in which the Hongkong authorities relented. Whether they have been successful in controlling the “ruling passion” amongst the Chinese is best known to themselves.

We have much pleasure in announcing that the excellent essay by Mr. Augustus Mongredien, entitled “Free trade and English Commerce,” published by Messrs. Cassell, Petter, Galpin & Co. for the Cobden Club, has been translated into Japanese by Mr. Miyoi Keinosin, and is now for sale throughout the country at a price which brings it within the reach of all. The object in presenting this clear and convincing exposition of the principles of free trade, by the adoption of which the commerce of England has been promoted to the foremost position it now occupies, is to convey to a number of men in Japan engaged in commerce, and speaking no language but their own, the groundwork of that commercial policy which aims at the establishment of a system of perfectly untrammelled interchange of commodities, and the eventual removal of all those barriers, such as political boundaries and protective tariffs, which interfere with the spread of Commerce and the advent of its attendant good angels, Peace, Goodwill, and Education.

Japan is just entering upon commercial relations with the world which must, if extended on a basis of honesty, good faith, and sound legislation founded on non-interference, the law to follow commerce, carry the nation on to a prosperous future, and gain for her a position respected by others who will become closely united to her by the friendly bonds of trade. Happily the members of the present government have shown no disposition to favour protection. The proposed increase in the tariff springs from a desire we can readily understand, to add to the revenue of a nation somewhat embarrassed by its past expenditure. This tariff is too frequently confounded with a supposed wish of the government to impose duties for protection, “yet there is this fundamental and important distinction between an import duty which is imposed for purposes of revenue, and one which is maintained with the object of giving protection to home industry. In the former case, the object those have in view who impose the duty, is to encourage importation; because the greater the importation, the larger is the revenue obtained. In the second case, the object being to discourage importation, the smaller the amount of revenue obtained the more completely will the purpose of the duty have been achieved.” (Professor Fawcett, *Restraints on Imports*). So far, therefore, our Japanese friends desirous of studying a question on which the future prosperity of their country mainly depends, are justified in assuming that the government have expressed no preference for a policy of protection, and that their adoption of the noble principles of free trade can be secured if the public voice should be in their favour. As an aid to the discussion, Mr. Mongredien's essay is invaluable; and to further the good cause we propose, having previously obtained

Mr. Mongredien's consent to do so, to reprint one or more chapters of the original English version each Saturday until the whole is complete. By this means students will be enabled to collate the translation for themselves; and in order to facilitate a sound understanding of the subject several gentlemen have promised to discuss any question that our friends may raise, to explain any passage which may seem to need explanation, and to consider any argument which may be urged in opposition to a free trade policy for Japan.

We commend the translation to all patriotic Japanese with implicit confidence in the soundness of the doctrines enunciated by the author.

THE translation is prefaced by two short addresses, the first by Mr. Nomura Fumio, who revised the translation, and the second by Mr. Miyoi Keinosin, the translator. Of these the following are English versions.

"The proverb says that an engagement with the enemy by a general inexperienced in their tactics must end in calamity. The truth of this is admitted. Everything has its particular use, and if this special object be ignored and an article be diverted from its legitimate function, it becomes a source of danger. With money especially is this the case. Money is a vast convenience to a people; all things are produced by its aid; and the wealth of a country is measured, and its power promoted, by means of money. If, however, the real nature of money be ignored the treasury may be exhausted and financial difficulties arise in consequence. Therefore the nature and use of money must be clearly understood. It is to be regretted that our leading men of the higher class never having engaged in trade under the feudal system, care little about political economy, even at this day when other sciences and arts have been introduced from the West and are being studied zealously by my countrymen. Thus, ignorant of the true principles of political economy, and of the conduct of commerce, they all attribute the nation's financial difficulties to an adverse balance of trade; and, which is worse, some have vowed to abstain altogether from the use of imported goods. This erroneous opinion prevails among government officials also. The reason why commerce is in so flourishing a state in the West is that those who conduct it are versed in the true principles of political economy. This work discusses, and accurately explains the relative advantages and disadvantages of free trade and protection."

"I have been moved to this expression of my opinion by my revision of the translation."

(Signed) NOMURA FUMIO."

"The original work is entitled 'Free Trade and English Commerce, written by Augustus Mongredien, and published in England in 1880.'"

"The chief object of this publication was to circulate among all English-speaking people throughout the world the true principles of commerce, and I now dedicate this translation of it to the public to assist them in opposing a protectionist policy by means of the accurate and effective arguments contained in this book. And I do this notwithstanding the sense of my ignorance and incapacity to do justice to the original."

"Prior to translation and publication, consent was obtained from the Committee of the

Cobden Club, and from Messrs. Cassell, Petter, Galpin & Co., the original publishers."

(Signed) MIYOI KEINOSIN."

The translation is protected by copy-right dated February 10th, 1881, for a term of thirty years.

A CORRESPONDENT of a native paper writing from Hakodate, says that the Kaitakushi being about to be abolished, the people at that port are very desirous to commence some new enterprise, and Messrs. Yamamoto, Tanaka, Miyaji, Ishida, Sugiura, Tsuneno, magistrates of that town, and others, about 27 in number, all influential persons, held a meeting at the Mitsui Bank, when they resolved to purchase the steamers *Genbu-Maru*, *Koriu-Maru*, *Hakodate-Maru*, *Shinbi-Maru*, *Komei-Maru*, and *Nakataka-Maru*, and some sailing ships, at present belonging to the Kaitakushi; they intend to forward an application for this purpose to H.E. Kuroda, chief of the colonization commission, on his arrival at Hakodate, and if they fail in getting permission, to send Mr. Tsuneno after his Excellency to Sapporo where his Majesty the Mikado will soon be, to endeavour to obtain their request. They propose to establish a steamship company trading with the above steamers. The correspondent adds that Messrs. Nomura, Naka and others are projecting some other undertaking.

THE journalistic strife now raging hotly in the camp promises to be enlivened by the return of Mr. House, who is about to revive the *Tokio Times*. Before this master of personal invective and scurrility even the *Hongkong Telegraph* must tremble; and our local copyists will sink into utter insignificance.

Mr. House, who is accompanied by a Japanese who has been for sometime resident in London and Paris, is expected by the next American mail, and it is needless to say that the subscription lists said to be opened at the Club Germania and United Club for the purpose of providing funds for the erection of a triumphal arch of welcome and banquet, are wild absurdities.

A FEW days ago the *Japan Mail* gave a note of warning about the thieves now invading the hot spring district; and we have now news of another robbery committed at Mianoshita on the night of the 16th instant. Some gentlemen from Yokohama, staying at Nariah's hotel, had their rooms entered by thieves, who first searched all pockets for money taking whatever they could find, and then carried off a portmanteau containing yen 75 in money, and a quantity of clothing. A search having been instituted yesterday the portmanteau was discovered in a field, broken open but nothing but the money abstracted.

Mianoshita, Hakone, and all other places in the vicinity have hitherto been absolutely free from thefts of this description. When the hotels have been filled with guests small portable and valuable articles have frequently been left exposed throughout day and night. The robbers are presumably from Tokio or Yokohama; and travellers will act wisely to deposit all their money and valuables with the proprietors of the hotels at which they stay; a plan we have always adopted on principle and no doubt with advantage.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* has the following item:—Mr. Ishibashi, a secretary of the national debt bureau, left Tokio yesterday for the north to overtake his Majesty the

Mikado whom he will probably meet at the Hokkaido. It is not definitely known what business he has to transact, but it is said to be connected with a secret consultation for a foreign loan of yen 2,000,000. We are unable to say whether this rumour is true or not.

An enterprising merchant of Kagoshima Ken, says the same journal, intends to establish a company at Nawa, Loochoo, under the name of Unyu Kwaisha, for the purpose of trading along the coasts of the Loochooan group, three or four times a month.

THE officers of the Mitsui Bishi Steamship Company will be sorry to hear of the death of Mr. James Ellis who has been in that company's service as engineer from its commencement. Mr. Ellis arrived in Japan on board the *Malacca*, now in the Japanese navy, sixteen years ago, and has been in active service until within the last few months when his declining health induced him to leave for home. He took passage in the *Niigata Maru*, which left here on the 6th instant, and a telegram received yesterday morning from Hongkong announces his death at the age of 59 years.

Mr. Ellis was highly respected, and had gained many friends both in the Company's service and amongst the public by whom he was well known as an old resident.

A RUMOUR is current that H.E. Iwakura, now in Kioto, intends to resign his office on his return to the capital.

AMERICAN citizens in this settlement will no doubt be pleased to learn that, on 5th. July last, at a special meeting of the London Court of Aldermen, the Lord Mayor presiding, Alderman Sir Robert Carden said that, in the absence of their senior member, it was his painful duty to have to propose the following resolution, which he was sure would be unanimously carried:—

"That this Court has heard with deep regret and indignation of the cruel attempt which has been made upon the life of the President of the United States, and, in sympathy with the whole body of the citizens of London, deploras the commission of so heinous a crime, and earnestly hopes that a life so valuable as that which has been so ruthlessly assailed may yet be spared for many years to his country, his family and his friends."

Mr. Alderman Lawrence seconded the resolution, and it was unanimously carried; and it was resolved to remit it to the American minister.

OUR neighbours, the Chinese, are beginning to throw aside their old-world prejudices against modern civilization and progress; and in fact it is high time that they did. They are beginning to understand that telegraphs are not altogether a work of the "powers of darkness." Their government has lately sent instructions through the Embassy at Washington to the Chinese Educational Commission at Hartford, in Connecticut, to establish a department of telegraphy, and operations are to be commenced at once. At present there is no telegraphic communication in the Chinese Empire, excepting between a few of the larger places on the coast, and this is solely by lines established and maintained by the foreign residents. It is understood that the communication is solely in English, or other languages than the Chinese, and that no system has yet been devised by which the Chinese can communicate by wire



in their own language. The project contemplates the establishment of a governmental system of telegraphic signs and symbols which shall indicate the Chinese characters. This will be a task of very considerable difficulty. But the students are said to have taken hold of the new study with real interest; and as they are quick to learn, a few months's tuition will probably fit them for their duties.

It is said, that the reception of the sons of His Royal Highness Prince of Wales, who are shortly expected to visit Japan has been entrusted to the household department, and the building of a banquet hall is being hastened in order to have it finished by the time their Royal Highnesses arrive in Tokio.

THE *Hochi Shinbun* makes the following announcement:—We stated some days ago that the proceedings of the Kaitakushi would injure the reputation of the Satsuma clan. As we expected, however, two high military officials belonging to the same are said to have greatly enlarged on the proceedings in question and to have held some conference at the residence of H. E. Kawamura, as they are very fastidious of the government losing credit with the people by an unjust transaction. It is said also that those very officials who attended the treasury made some arrangement favourable to the plan relative to the fishery in the Hokkaido, as they were much surprised at the public being clamorous against the transaction and had accordingly changed their opinion. One of the other members of the cabinet seeing the injustice which public opinion had indicated, is said to have sent, or intends to send, a memorial to the government that the abolition of the Kaitakushi should be delayed.

It has been disputed, says the same journal, by two parties, amongst the projectors of the Toboku Tetsudo Kwaisha, whether the railway is to be first constructed from Tsuruga side or Kanazawa. It is now decided that it should be first commenced from the former side.

## Law Reports.

Before MARTIN DOHMEN, Esq., Acting Assistant Judge.

Friday, August 19th., 1881.

R. (on the prosecution of Ah Ping)

versus

R. THOMSON, 3rd. Engineer of the P. & O. steamer *Malacca*.

Accused was charged with having, on the 10th. of August last.

1st., assaulted a Chinaman named Lum Aloong now deceased, and then fireman on board the *Malacca*.

2nd., maliciously wounded him with intent to do bodily harm.

3rd., with having unlawfully and maliciously wounded and inflicted greivous bodily harm upon the said Ah Loong.

Accused pleaded not guilty.

Mr. Lowder appeared for the prosecution.

Mr. Lowder, having read the charges, called the prosecutor who, being duly warned stated; I am a fireman on board the *Malacca*.

I was in the fireroom of that vessel on the 9th. of August last. I saw the third engineer assault the deceased Lum Aloong. The latter was raking up the fire at the time. The third engineer said to him that the fire was not sufficient, and then struck him on the face and body, and knocked him against the furnace burning his arm. I told the engineer to desist, and I was beaten by him for doing so. The deceased had his face swollen at the time, having been beaten the day before by the engineer. I assisted the deceased to get up, as he was unable to do so by himself and I advised him to go to the windsail. I did not see Lum Aloong go on deck, but I saw the third engineer run up in a hurry. The next thing I heard was the bell ringing for the ship to stop. The third engineer came down again and I asked him what was the matter, he replied that the fireman, the deceased, had sprung overboard. At the time of the assault there were four persons present, viz.: the accused, the deceased, myself, and another Chinaman.

To the accused:—I am not quite sure at what time you assaulted the deceased, but I believe it was about a quarter past one in the morning. You did not put a rake in the hands of the deceased. Deceased went up on deck only once, and complained that his face was paining him. He did not complain to you that he was sick.

Ah Won, fireman, was next called and being duly warned, stated:—I was present in the fireroom shortly after midnight on the 9th. inst. Besides myself there were two firemen and the third engineer. I recognize the accused. I saw the accused assault the deceased, who was raking the fire. I think the accused found fault on account of there not being enough steam on.

The witness corroborated the account of the assault given by the previous witness.

To the accused:—I saw deceased fall against the furnace and burn his arm. When the chief engineer beat the man you were present. I did not report to the captain that the deceased had been assaulted, as I do not understand English. The steward understands Chinese, but I had to attend to my duties, and could not report it to him.

Ah Pow, coalman, being warned, said: On the 9th. of August I was fixing the windsail on deck. I heard a noise in the fireroom but did not know what it was. I saw Lum Aloong come on deck, and sit down at the side of the ship. Afterwards the third engineer came on deck. I heard the third engineer speaking in a loud voice to Lum Aloong, who jumped overboard. When walking to the side of the ship Lum Aloong staggered in his walk, but I am not sure whether he was in pain. He neither drank nor smoked.

To the accused:—I only saw Lum Aloong come on deck once. The ladder from the fireroom to the deck is a steep one.

Peter Mahomet, being duly warned and examined by the accused, said: It was about half past twelve when Lum Aloong came on deck. I did not see you strike the deceased. I was only once in the stoke hole.

To Mr. Lowder: I did not see accused strike the deceased.

This closing the evidence, his Honour said the accused was at liberty to make any statement he wished, but warned him that anything he might say, would be taken down and produced at the trial.

Mr. Lowder said that the evidence which had been heard wholly corroborated the

charge and it only remained for His Honour to say whether he would commit the accused to trial or deal with the case summarily, if the former were to be done he, Mr. Lowder, would reserve his address until the trial took place, and if the latter he would make his remarks in the afternoon.

His Honour said he would require to review the evidence before he could say whether the case would be dealt with summarily or not, but he would decide this afternoon.

The court then adjourned till 2 p.m.

The court re-assembled at 2 p.m.

His Honour said he had gone through the evidence taken this morning and found that it did not sustain the charge, and the case would therefore be dismissed but it lay open to the prosecutor to bring on another charge.

Mr. Lowder said he wished immediately to amend the charges as follows:—

Ah Ping a Chinese subject, employed on board the British steamer *Malacca* charges that Robert Thomson on the 9th. of August, in and upon one Lum Aloong, did make an assault, and him, the said Lum Aloong, did then beat, and illtreat, and other wrongs against the said Lum Aloong then did, to the great damage of the said Lum Aloong against the peace of our Lady the Queen.

This, Mr. Lowder said, would convert the charge into one of simple battery to which the accused would doubtless plead guilty.

Accused said he had been in very bad health lately and rather than go through another hearing of the case and occupying the court's time he would plead guilty although he was innocent.

Mr. Lowder said he understood the accused had pleaded guilty, in which case he, Mr. Lowder, had been instructed by the prosecution to request His Honour to use the full discretion allowed him by the law and inflict a punishment of imprisonment instead of a fine. He thought it was right to make an example of someone as a warning to the residents of the East, that they could not with impunity maltreat a Chinaman simply because he was not of another nationality, and in the present case the accused had treated the deceased in a most cruel and unfair manner and had so persecuted him as to drive him to seek death by self-destruction. Mr. Lowder also asked that the accused be ordered to bear the expenses of the prosecution and quoted P. 74 Order in Council, which clause provides that the court may order any person convicted before it of any crime or offence, to pay all or part of the expenses of his trial.

His Honour in giving judgment said that it was open to the complainant or to any other employé of the P. & O. Company if ill-treated, to make a complaint to the captain or agent, and the plea given by the prosecutor that he could neither understand nor speak English was inadmissible, since there must have been persons on board who could have interpreted for him. His Honour, however, agreed with Mr. Lowder that the punishment provided for an ordinary case of assault was inadequate for the present case; however, on account of the position and the state of health of the accused, he would not sentence him to a term of imprisonment, but would fine him \$50, or in default to one month's imprisonment.

NOTIFICATION NO. 40, OF THE COUNCIL  
OF STATE.

It is hereby notified that the Regulations for the storage and control of Kerosene Oil have been arranged on the following basis, and will be put into force on and after the 1st. of January of the 14th. year of Meiji (1882).

(Signed). SANJO SANETOMI,  
Prime Minister.

August 13, 14th. year of Meiji, 1881.

## REGULATIONS FOR STORAGE, &amp;c., OF KEROSENE OIL.

1.—Kerosene Oil is classified under two grades:—the first, an oil that will not flash except at a temperature higher than 120° Fahr., and the second, an oil that flashes at a lower temperature than 120°.

2.—For lamps only the first grade may be used, while the second may not be employed at all except by physicians, chemists, druggists and engineers.

3.—Dealers in Kerosene Oil are divided into four sections, namely: producers of petroleum, refiners, wholesalers, and retailers. Each of these must receive permission to deal in the material from their local authorities or from the Board of Police in Tokio.

[NOTE:—Separate permits must be taken out for each branch of the business, by dealers who intend to traffic in more than one of the classes enumerated.]

4.—The places selected for storing quantities of Kerosene, whether by producers, refiners or wholesalers, and the warehouses, refineries, and places of wholesale, will all be subject to inspection by the local authorities concerned, or in Tokio, by the Board of Police.

5.—Kerosene Oil of the second grade may be sold direct to applicants by wholesalers only, while retail dealers are permitted to sell only oil of the first grade.

[NOTE:—The time for all sales is between sunrise and sunset.]

6.—When physicians, chemists, medicine dealers, or engineers buy second grade Kerosene Oil, they must supply the sellers with memoranda stating the quantities required and the purpose to which it has to be applied. Sellers should record in their books the quantities sold, dates of sale, and names and addresses of buyers. They should also keep the memoranda on which they make their deliveries.

[NOTE:—This grade, of oil may not be sold to the young, blind, deaf, or cripples.]

7.—Police officials will examine the Kerosene Oil held either in refineries or the wholesale stores. No oil, until it has been passed by authorized inspectors, can be sold by either wholesalers or retailers.

8.—The quantity of Kerosene kept on hand thus examined, must not exceed, in the case of wholesalers, five *koku* of the first grade oil, and five of the second; and, in the case of retailers three *koku* of the first grade. Buyers may not at any one time have more than two *koku* of the first and five *cho* of the second kind. The fluid must in all cases be kept in metal vessels.

9.—When the oil is in transit from place to place, legible notice of its nature and grade must be inscribed on the packages in which it is contained.

[NOTE:—The oil must not be left on the Hatoba or at the sides of the road any longer than is absolutely necessary for purposes of lading and discharging, &c.]

10.—Persons violating these Regulations will be fined not less than two yen, and not more than two hundred yen.

SILK SHIPPERS FROM YOKOHAMA  
FOR SEASON 1880-81.

Bavies & Co. ... ..	4,001 Bales.
Siber & Braunwald ... ..	2,472 "
Sieber-Waser ... ..	1,647 "
Mourilyan, Heilmann & Co. ... ..	1,123 "
Schoene & Mottu ... ..	1,120 "
Hecht, Lillenthal & Co. ... ..	980 "
Wilkin & Robinson ... ..	908 "
Jardine, Matheson & Co. ... ..	771 "
W. M. Strachan & Co. ... ..	740 "
China & Japan Trading Co. ... ..	666 "
H. Ludwig & Co. ... ..	610 "

Walsh, Hall & Co. ... ..	598 Bales.
DeL'Oré & Co. ... ..	490 "
Findlay, Richardson & Co. ... ..	463 "
John Middleton ... ..	422 "
Kingdon, Schwabe & Co. ... ..	411 "
Fraser, Farley & Co. ... ..	340 "
Reiss & Co. ... ..	274 "
Cornes & Co. ... ..	265 "
Smith, Baket & Co. ... ..	202 "
Fraser & Co. ... ..	169 "
F. Vivanti (as agent) ... ..	143 "
Adolph Schultze ... ..	129 "
Ziegler & Co. ... ..	121 "
P. Dourille ... ..	108 "
A. J. Macpherson ... ..	101 "
W. Sagel ... ..	98 "
C. Illies & Co. ... ..	36 "
Geo. H. Alcock (as agent) ... ..	32 "
Grösser & Co. ... ..	17 "
Mollison, Fraser & Co. ... ..	15 "
Marcus ... ..	10 "
Thomas & Co. ... ..	7 "
Holme & Co. ... ..	1 "

19,404 Bales.

## JAPANESE SHIPPERS.

Kaitausha ... ..	1,309
Boyeiki ... ..	1,258
Mitsui ... ..	137
Doinsha ... ..	123
Sato Kimmi ... ..	107
Anzai ... ..	7

Japanese Shipments 2,940 Bales.

Grand total ... .. 22,344 Bales.

## SHANGHAI.

(N.-C. Daily News.)

During the month of July, 50 steamers, 29 sailing vessels and four men-of-war entered the port of Amoy.

The Russian gunboat *Morge*, Commander Moltsoff, left on Saturday for Japan.

The P. & O. Co.'s steamer *Zambesi*, which left on the 13th August, took the following silk:—For London, 308 bales; Venice, 46; Milan, 20; Basle, 9; Bombay, 46; Penang, 6; Singapore, 53; total, 488 bales; and 66 bales of waste silk for London; 6 bales ditto for Bombay.

Tickets No. 6,777, 14,073 and 1,072, are telegraphed as having won the three largest prizes in the August drawing of the Manila Lottery.

The friends of General Grant will be interested to learn that it is reported that he is to have the office of Minister Plenipotentiary to Mexico, with full power to settle all disputes now pending between that country and the United States. The salary is \$30,000 per annum, which is not a bad income for the General.

(Shanghai Mercury.)

No less than three disabled sailing vessels have put into Shanghai to-day (16th instant), and as they are all from northern ports we may judge that they have had pretty rough weather on the northern coast during the past few days. The German three-masted schooner *Frederich* from Newchwang to Amoy, has her mainmast and fore-top-mast gone, and head of the foremast twisted; bulwarks washed away, and other damage on deck. The German barque *Bri König*, from Newchwang to Hongkong, has her three topmasts gone, and mainmast head twisted. The British barque *Omega*, from Chefoo to Hongkong, has foremast gone.

By the kindness of Captain Wynn, of the *Niigata Maru*, we have been furnished with particulars of the typhoon experienced by that vessel on the voyage from Kobe to Hongkong. The *Niigata Maru* left Kobe on the 9th, of August, and had fine weather up to the evening of the 11th, when it began to assume a threatening appearance. At 1 a.m. on Friday the wind increased, and the foretop-sail was taken in. During the next few hours the gale gradually grew more violent, a high irregular sea running, in which the ship laboured heavily. By 10 a.m. a hurricane was blowing, the engines had to be slowed down, and the ship's head put up to the sea. It continued to blow with terrible violence for the next eleven hours, a thick rain, which obscured everything at a distance of half the ship's length, adding to the awfulness of the scene. The sea, which was fearfully high, swept the deck continually from every side, and had in not been for the ship's splendid qualities as a sea-boat, she must inevitably have gone to the bottom. During this period the port boat was carried away, taking the davits, which were 3½ inches thick, and everything else connected with it. The foresail, which had been reefed before the gale had attained its utmost fury, was blown piece by piece out of its lashings. The bridge canvas was also blown away, and other damage done. Every room was washed out, and the Captain remarked that after the gale had moderated it reminded him strongly of a ragfair, to see everyone collecting the scattered remnants of clothing which had been left. Just as the glass had begun to rise a tremendous sea took her broadside, and knocked her almost on her beam ends; the cargo shifted; and when they endeavoured to get the ship cleared of water by means of the pumps, these, owing to the ashes from the fire and other matter getting into them, were choked up, and ultimately the fires were extinguished by the water. For some hours they lay at the mercy of the waves. At last steam was got up in the two weather boilers (the lee ones still being under water), and at nine o'clock at night they succeeded in getting the vessel round on the other tack, which enabled her to partially recover from the list. Under these two boilers she ran until noon of the 13th, when the storm had subsided. During the height of the typhoon it was impossible for any one to move about the decks; the most anyone could do being to get under the lee of anything, and hang on with all his strength to prevent the wind or sea sweeping him away. The Chinese amahs and boys on board are to-day to offer up a sacrifice of fire crackers, &c., to express their thankfulness for their delivery from imminent danger. Captain Wynn is of opinion that the typhoon exceeded in power any he had ever seen or heard of. We append the following readings of the barometer from 2 p.m. on Thursday till 6 p.m. on the Friday:—

2 p.m., Bar.	29.64
3 " "	29.60
4 " "	29.58
5 " "	29.56
6 " "	29.53
7 " "	29.52

From 7 p.m. till 2 a.m. the Bar. fell

to	29.36
4 a.m., Bar.	29.26
6 " "	29.20
8 " "	29.14
Noon, "	28.80
5 p.m., "	28.40
6 " "	28.70

Wind steady N.E.; ship steering to S.W. up to 6 a.m.; then N.N.W. and N.W.

wind veering to West and South.

## Shipping.

## ARRIVALS.

Aug. 12, Jap. str. *Suminoye-Maru*, Frahm, 853, from West Coast, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Aug. 13, Jap. str. *Wakanoura-Maru*, Christensen, 1,300, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Aug. 13, Jap. barq. *Awajishima-Maru*, Creighton, 660, from Nagasaki, Coals, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Aug. 14, Jap. str. *Kokonoye-Maru*, Dithlefsen, 1,133, from Hakodate, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Aug. 14, Brit. str. *Malacca*, Weighell, 1,709, from Hongkong via Nagasaki, Mails and General, to P. & O. Co.  
 Aug. 14, Jap. barq. *Kanagawa-Maru*, Eckstrand, 1,184, from Nagasaki, 9th inst., Coals, to M. B. S. Co.  
 Aug. 15, Jap. str. *Takasago-Maru*, Young, 1,230, from Hongkong via Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Aug. 15, Brit. str. *Oceanic*, Metcalfe, 3,700, from San Francisco, Mails and General, to O. & O. Co.  
 Aug. 15, Brit. str. *Agamemnon*, Wilding, 1,595, from Kobe, General, to Butterfield & Swire.  
 Aug. 16, Jap. str. *Tokai-Maru*, Hogg, 1,042, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Aug. 16, Jap. str. *Meiji-Maru*, Peters, 1,010, from a Cruise, to Lighthouse Department.  
 Aug. 16, Jap. str. *Tamaura-Maru*, Carrow, 558, from Hakodate, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Aug. 18, Brit. str. *Antonio*, Seaborne, 1,213, from London via Shanghai, General, to Smith, Baker & Co.  
 Aug. 18, Am. ship *Landseer*, Knowles, 1,418, from Cardiff, April 14th, Coals, to P. Bohm.  
 Aug. 18, Jap. str. *Hiroshima-Maru*, Haswell, 1,870, from Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Aug. 18, Jap. str. *Chishima-Maru*, Walker, —, from Hakodate, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Aug. 20, Frch. str. *Volga*, Guirand, 1,502, from Hongkong, Mails and General, to M. M. Co.  
 Aug. 22, Jap. str. *Akitsuishima-Maru*, Frahm, 1,146, from Hakodate, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.  
 Aug. 21, Brit. bark *Santon*, T. L. Rogers, 520, from Antwerp, April 17th, General, to A. Reimers & Co.  
 Aug. 22, H. M. S. *Swift*, Capt. Collins, 6-guns, 820 tons, from Amoy, 8th inst.  
 Aug. 23, Jap. str. *Sumida-Maru*, Hubenet, 896, from Hakodate, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Aug. 23, Jap. str. *Wakanoura-Maru*, Christensen, 1,300, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.  
 Aug. 23, Brit. str. *Carnarvonshire*, Patrick, 1,531, from London, June 26th, via Hongkong, 17th Aug., General, to Adamson, Bell & Co.  
 Aug. 23, Jap. str. *Tamaura-Maru*, Carrow, 558, from Hakodate, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Aug. 24, Brit. str. *Gaelic*, Kidley, 2,704, from Hongkong, Mails and General, to O. & O. Co.  
 Aug. 24, Jap. str. *Tokio-Maru*, Swain, 2,119, from Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.

## DEPARTURES.

Aug. 12, Am. str. *City of Peking*, Berry, 5,079, for San Francisco, Mails and General, despatched by P. M. S. S. Co.  
 Aug. 12, Brit. barq. *Mora*, Bell, 619, for Hiogo, General, despatched by Ed. Whittall.  
 Aug. 13, Jap. barq. *Sumanoura-Maru*, Spiegelthal, 925, for Nagasaki, Ballast, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Aug. 14, Frch. str. *Menzaleh*, Homery, 1,273, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by M. M. Co.  
 Aug. 14, Brit. barq. *Woodbine*, Steel, 251, for Burrard Inlet, Ballast, despatched by P. Bohm.  
 Aug. 14, Brit. barq. *Prospector*, Anthony, 235, for Nagasaki, Ballast, despatched by P. Bohm.  
 Aug. 14, Am. ship *Benjamin Sewall*, Sewall, 1,463, for Hakodate, Ballast, despatched by J. E. Collyer & Co.  
 Aug. 14, Jap. str. *Akitsuishima-Maru*, Frahm, 1,146, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Aug. 15, Brit. str. *Metapedia*, Fowler, 1,450, for New York, Tea and General, despatched by Smith, Baker & Co.  
 Aug. 16, Brit. str. *Oceanic*, Metcalfe, 3,700, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by O. & O. Co.  
 Aug. 17, Brit. str. *Agamemnon*, Wilding, 1,595, for New York via China ports, General, despatched by Butterfield & Swire.

Aug. 17, Jap. str. *Genkai-Maru*, Conner, 1,917, for Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Aug. 18, Am. ship *Paul Revere*, Mullin, 1,739, for San Francisco, Tea and General, despatched by John Middleton.  
 Aug. 18, Jap. str. *Wakanoura-Maru*, Christensen, 1,300, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Aug. 18, Jap. str. *Kumamoto-Maru*, Drummond, 1,240, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Aug. 18, Jap. str. *Tamaura-Maru*, Carrow, 558, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Aug. 19, Ger. barq. *Marie*, —, 464, for Nagasaki, Ballast, despatched by Carl Rohde & Co.  
 Aug. 19, Brit. barq. *James Wilson*, Holmes, 325, for Nagasaki, Ballast, despatched by H. Macarthur & Co.  
 Aug. 20, Brit. str. *Malacca*, Weighell, 1,709, for Hongkong via Hiogo and Nagasaki, Mails and General, despatched by P. & O. Co.  
 Aug. 20, Brit. str. *Antonio*, Seaborne, 1,213, for Kobe, General, despatched by Smith, Baker & Co.  
 Aug. 20, Jap. str. *Takasago-Maru*, Young, 1,230, for Hongkong via Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Aug. 20, Jap. barq. *Kanagawa-Maru*, Eckstrand, 1,184, for Nagasaki, Ballast, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Aug. 21, Jap. barq. *Awajishima-Maru*, Creighton, 660, for Nagasaki, Ballast, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Aug. 21, Jap. str. *Suminoye-Maru*, Frahm, 853, for Samusawa, General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Aug. 23, Jap. str. *Chishima-Maru*, Walker, —, for Hakodate, General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Aug. 23, Brit. barq. *Garstang*, Yarnoll, 301, for Cebu, Ballast, despatched by Mollison, Fraser & Co.  
 Aug. 24, Jap. str. *Kokonoye-Maru*, Dithlefsen, 1,133, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Aug. 24, Jap. str. *Tsuruga-Maru*, Steadman, 661, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.

## PASSENGERS.

Per Brit. str. *Metapedia*, from Kobe:—Messrs. Page, E. E. Billbrough, and A. H. Crow in cabin; and 100 Japanese in steerage.  
 Per Am. str. *City of Peking*, for San Francisco:—Mr. and Mrs. Major, Mr. P. A. Ponomareff, Mrs. S. J. Holmes, Miss Dow, Mrs. H. M. Perkins and 2 children, Mr. O. H. Peabody, Mr. C. W. Stoehr, Mrs. Farmer and daughter, Mr. Arthur Hull Elwell, Chief-Eng. Farmer, u.s.n., Dr. and Mrs. Pfeiffer and 2 children, Mrs. Soltikoff, Captain and Mrs. Lindholm, and 2 children, Mr. Jules Vidal, Miss Fischer, Mrs. Stewart, Mr. C. T. Battelle, Mr. W. B. Griffith, Mr. J. T. Tate, Dr. and Mrs. Jessop in cabin; 16 Europeans and 805 Chinese in steerage.  
 Per Frch. str. *Menzaleh*, for Hongkong:—Mrs. Mazagran, Messrs. E. Bernard, J. Pages, C. F. Martin, and P. Brown in cabin.  
 Per Brit. str. *Malacca*, from Hongkong via Nagasaki:—Asst. Commissary-General March, Captain Mookler (43 Regt.), Monsieur Cottean; and 2 Chinese in steerage.  
 Per Jap. str. *Kokonoye-Maru*, from Hakodate:—Miss Vaile, Mr. D. McKenzie, Revd. J. Draper, Revd. G. Davieson; and 100 Japanese in steerage.  
 Per Jap. str. *Takasago-Maru*, from Hongkong via Kobe:—Dr. E. Tiege, Messrs. J. J. Enslie, E. C. Kirby, Short, E. F. Fenillasa, W. D. Townsend, and 7 Japanese in cabin; and 290 Japanese, 14 Chinese in steerage.  
 Per Brit. str. *Metapedia*, for New York:—Mr. E. E. Billbrough.  
 Per Brit. str. *Oceanic*, from San Francisco:—Rev. H. H. Loomis and family, Messrs. Gisabro Tanabe, J. F. Twombly, Geo. H. Alcock, Bishop Bowman, and Miss White in cabin; and 6 Europeans in steerage.  
 For Hongkong: Miss May Clark, Miss Violet Elwood, Mr. Herbert F. Dent, Mrs. Annie Turner, and Mr. C. Koopmanschafe in cabin; and 126 Chinese in steerage.  
 Per Jap. str. *Tokio-Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Livingston and infant, Dr. Von Boretz, Messrs. F. S. Jacobs, G. Bayfield, O. Smith, J. King, and 2 Japanese in cabin; and 2 Europeans, 2 Chinese and 154 Japanese in steerage.  
 Per Brit. str. *Gaelic*, from Hongkong:—Gen. T. B. Van Buren (U. S. Consul General), and Mr. F. D. Palmer in cabin; and 6 in steerage.  
 For San Francisco: Capt. Horatio Nelson in cabin; and 286 Chinese in steerage.

Per Brit. str. *Agamemnon*, from Kobe:—Mr. Voigt, Mrs. Cunningham and 2 children; and 150 Japanese.

Per Jap. str. *Genkai-Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Mrs. Cunningham and child, Mr. and Mrs. Watson, family and European maid, Mrs. Hamilton, Mrs. Lawrence, Revd. J. L. Atkinson, Messrs. J. F. Twombly, L. Lichtenstein, Townsend, E. A. Potter and 23 Japanese in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Hiroshima-Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. MacGregor, Miss Devaux, Revd. J. Davison and child, Messrs. Spooner, Anjier, C. W. Sudor Davies, Ching yet Poh, Yong Ying Sing, Yong King Sing, and 15 Japanese in cabin; and 2 European, 5 Chinese and 591 Japanese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Chishima-Maru*, from Hakodate:—40 Japanese in steerage.

Per Brit. str. *Malacca* for Hongkong via Hiogo and Nagasaki:—Mr. P. Kempermann and servant, Mr. M. Mayeda and servant, Mr. Tong King Sing and servant, and Major Foster in cabin; 3 Chinese and 2 Japanese in steerage.

Per Frch. str. *Volga*, from Hongkong:—Mr. Kwai Chung in cabin. From Marseilles: Messrs. Sudzuki, Nishikawa, Sohmda, Cammell and J. E. Partington in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Akitsuishima-Maru*, from Hakodate:—Mr. J. A. Thomson, Dr. J. C. Cutter in cabin; and 50 Japanese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Takasago-Maru*, for Hongkong via Kobe:—Mrs. Hamilton, Rev. L. A. Gulick, Messrs. Voigt, John Macgregor, Kleinwort, E. C. Kirby, E. Wagens, and 4 Japanese in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Sumida-Maru*, from Hakodate:—Revd. Arthur C. Wright, M.A., (Chaplain H. M. S. *Comus*) and Mr. Alfred B. Gutteridge (Engineer H. M. S. *Encounter*) in cabin; 1 English Marine and 25 Japanese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Wakanoura-Maru*, from Kobe:—Mr. Williams and 170 Japanese.

Per Brit. str. *Carnarvonshire*, from London via Hongkong:—Capt. E. Connor.

Per Jap. str. *Tamaura-Maru*, from Hakodate:—20 Japanese.

## REPORTS.

The British steamer *Oceanic* reports:—Left San Francisco July 23rd at 3.10 p.m. Fresh N.W. winds and high sea for 48 hours; thence to this port moderate, and light Westerly winds and sea. July 24th, at 10 a.m., passed S. S. *City of Tokio*, 150 miles West of San Francisco.

The American ship *Landseer* reports:—Left Cardiff April 14th. Had fine weather to the Equator which we crossed in 23 days out; fine weather continued up to Lat. 33 South, then had a hard gale from S.W., lost several sails, after that fine weather up to arrival at Anjer; from thence to this port light winds with the exception of one strong Easterly gale in Lat. 30 N. Long. 132 E. which lasted two days, lost lower fore-top-sail and split foresail. Had it calm several days from Rook Island light to the mouth of the Yedo Bay. Arrived 17th inst. All well.

The French steamer *Volga* reports:—Left Hongkong 14th inst., at daylight. On the 18th inst. off Siwosaki at 4.30 p.m. past O. & O. S. *Oceanic*, and at 5.30 p.m. same day past O. S. *Agamemnon* both steering south.

The British barque *Santon* reports:—Left Flushing Roads April 17th. Passed the Lizard 19th. Crossed the Equator May 12th. In 23.50 W. passed Meridian Cape of Good Hope June 8th. June 16th. Lat. 40.366 Long. 39.403 wind shifted suddenly from West to South lost main top gallant yard and several sails. Passed St. Paul's Island June 26th. July 13th. sighted Java Heap. On the 14th. arrived at Anjer. 16th. sailed again. 20th. passed through Macao'sfelt Channel, Gaspar Straits in company with British ship *John B. Worcester*, from Cardiff to Shanghai. Aug. 4th. passed through Balingtang Channel; thence to Oo-shima experienced very light variable winds. Passed Rook Island at 6 p.m. 20th. Arrived at Yokohama at 2 p.m. 21st, 124 days from Flushing, having sailed 17,052 miles or an average of 5½ knots during the entire passage.

The Japanese steamer *Akitsuishima-Maru* reports:—Left Hakodate Aug. 18th. at 4 p.m. Aug. 19th. at 3 p.m. passed American ship *Benjamin Sewall* and S. S. *Tamaura-Maru* both going Northward about 15 miles northward of Kinkasan. Arrived at Yokohama Aug. 20th. at 9 p.m. Fine weather throughout.

The British steamer *Gaelic* reports:—Left Hongkong at 8.45 p.m. on the 17th. August, rainy weather in the China sea. Spoke the *Oceanic* at noon on the 20th. inst. Arrived at Yokohama on the 24th. inst. at 6 a.m.



## COMMERCIAL CIRCULAR.

YOKOHAMA, AUGUST 25TH, 1881.

Showing Duties payable, Prices realized, Quotations, and Estimated Sales of Goods in Yokohama, for the period of 14 days from 10th August 1881, to the 23rd August 1881, inclusive.

## IMPORTS.

The business of the past fourteen days has been of similar extent to that of the preceding period. Yarn shows a slight advance for medium and better qualities; and many sales have been made of cargo to arrive. An advance is also noticeable in 9lbs. Shirtings. With these exceptions quotations show no change, the import market generally being quiet.

YARNS.—Sales reported reach 3,003 Bales against 3,010 Bales for the preceding period; making a total for the year to date of 42,109 Bales—viz.: 25,103 Bales 16/24; 8,052 Bales 28/32; 1,382 Bales 38/42; 1,680 Bales doubled, and 5,892 Bales Indian qualities.

SUGAR.—White has advanced ten to twenty cents. Brown is a shade weaker, stocks being rather heavy.

KEROSENE.—No sales: nominal. The effect of Government "test" notification has been to paralyse the market.

133 lbs. = 1 Picul.

100 Dollars Mexican = 311 Silver Boas.

	DUTY CALCULATED IN MEXICAN DOLLARS.	DUTY PAID.		ESTIMATED SALES.
		PRICES AT WHICH SALES HAVE BEEN MADE.	NOMINAL QUOTATIONS.	(From 10th August to 23rd August.)
COTTON PIECE GOODS.				
Drills, American, 40 yds. 30 in. 14 lbs. ...	0.0241 ₪ 10 yds.	\$ ————— ₪ pc.	\$2.55 @ 3.50	— pieces.
Prints, assorted, 24 „ 30 „ ...	0.0241 „ „	1.95 ————— „ „	1.00 @ 2.75	1,000 „
Satins (cotton) ...	0.0643 „ „	————— ₪ yd.	0.11½ @ 0.12	— „
Shirtings, Grey, 38½ yds. 39 in. 7 lbs. ...	0.0281 „ „	————— ₪ pc.	1.40 @ 1.90	— „
„ „ 38½ „ 39 „ 8½ „ ...	0.0281 „ „	2.05 ————— „ „	1.75 @ 2.35	1,000 „
„ „ 38½ „ 45 „ 9 „ ...	0.0321 „ „	2.18 @ 2.70 „ „	2.12 @ 2.70	22,100 „
„ „ 39 „ 39 „ 10 „ ...	0.0321 „ „	————— „ „	—————	— „
T. Cloth, 32 in. 6 lbs. ...	0.0241 „ „	————— „ „	1.20 @ 1.50	— „
„ „ 7 „ ...		————— „ „	1.55 @ 1.75	— „
Turkey Reds, 24 yds. 30 in. 1½ lb. ...	0.2041 „ „	1.53 @ 1.70 „ „	—————	4,200 „
„ „ 24 „ 30 „ 2 „ @ 2½ lb. ...		————— „ „	1.65 @ 2.00	— „
„ „ 24 „ 30 „ 2½ „ ...		————— „ „	1.60 @ 2.20	— „
„ „ 24 „ 30 „ — @ 3 lbs. ...		————— „ „	7.00 @ 8.70	810 „
Velvets (black) 35 „ 22 „ ...	0.0643 „ „	7.35 @ 8.60 „ „	7.00 @ 8.70	810 „
Victoria Lawns, 12 „ 42 „ ...	0.0321 „ „	0.63 @ 0.67 „ „	0.60 @ 0.80	4,600 „
Cotton Italians, 35 „ 32 „ ...	0.0643 „ „	0.10 ————— ₪ yd.	0.10 @ 0.15	1,200 „
COTTON YARN.				
Nos. 16 @ 24 reversed ...	1.6077 ₪ picul.	31.00 ————— ₪ pc.	—————	50 bales
„ 16 @ 24 ...		31.00 @ 33.10 „ „	—————	2,095 „
„ 28 @ 32 ...		33.75 @ 35.75 „ „	—————	150 „
„ 38 @ 42 ...		39.25 @ 39.50 „ „	—————	50 „
„ 32 doubled ...		36.50 @ 38.00 „ „	—————	85 „
„ 42 „ ...		39.75 ————— „ „	—————	50 „
„ 60 „ ...		————— „ „	—————	— „
„ 100 „ ...		————— „ „	—————	— „
Indian No. 10 ...		————— „ „	—————	— „
„ „ 12 ...		————— „ „	—————	— „
„ „ 14 ...	28.00 ————— „ „	————— „ „	—————	25 „
„ „ 16 ...		28.40 @ 29.50 „ „	—————	214 „
„ „ 20 ...		29.25 @ 30.00 „ „	—————	284 „
WOOLLENS AND MIXTURES.				
Alpaca, 40 yds. 32 in. ...	0.0965 ₪ 10 yds.	————— ₪ pc.	\$5.50 @ \$7.00	—
Blankets, assorted ...	1.6077 ₪ picul.	————— ₪ lb.	—————	—
„ „ 6 lbs. (70 scarlet 30 green propn. ...		0.40 ————— „ „	—————	—
„ „ 5 lbs. Black ...	0.0965 ₪ 10 yds.	0.35 ————— „ „	—————	—
Cloth, all wool, 54 @ 64 lbs. ...		————— ₪ yd.	0.80 @ 1.50	—
„ Pilots, 54 @ 64 „ ...	0.3215 under 55 in. to 0.4019 exceeding 55 in. in width ₪ 10 yds.	————— „ „	0.30 @ 0.60	—
„ Presidents, 54 @ 64 „ ...		————— „ „	0.60 @ 0.70	—
„ Union, 54 @ 56 „ ...		————— „ „	0.35 @ 0.60	—
Italian Cloth, 32 in. ...		————— „ „	0.25 @ 0.40	—
Mousselines de Laine (plain & stripes), 24 yds. 31 in. ...	0.0965 ₪ 10 yds.	0.15½ @ 0.18½ „ „	0.16½ @ 0.19½	6,000
„ „ „ (figured) ...	0.0965 „ „	————— „ „	0.25 @ 0.40	—
SUGAR.				
White, Jimpah, No. 1 ...	0.3215 ₪ picul.	\$7.60 @ 8.00	—————	9,000 piculs Stock.
„ Khiahpah, „ 2 ...		6.90 @ 7.40	—————	
„ Kokfah, „ 3 ...		6.30 @ 6.80	—————	
„ Kungfun, „ 4 ...		5.60 @ 6.20	—————	
„ Gniahpah, „ 5 ...		5.00 @ 5.50	—————	
Brown, Formosa, bags ...	0.1286 „ „	4.00 @ 4.20	—————	88,000 piculs new Stock.
„ Amoy ...		3.75 @ 3.80	—————	
METALS &c.				
Iron, Flat and Round ...	0.0965 ₪ picul.	————— ₪ pcl.	\$2.50 @ \$2.80	Stocks 190,000 cases.
„ Assorted Nail-rods, (assorted) ...	0.0965 „ „	————— „ „	2.30 @ 2.50	
„ Pig ...	0.0482 „ „	————— „ „	1.40 @ 1.60	
Lead, Pig ...	0.2573 „ „	————— „ „	5.80 @ 6.00	
Quicksilver ...	1.9292 „ „	————— „ „	—————	
Steel, Swedish ...	0.1930 „ „	————— „ „	3.80 @ 4.55	
Tin Plates ...	0.2251 ₪ 120 lbs.	————— ₪ box	4.80 @ 5.00	
Kerosene Oil ...	5 % ad valorem.	————— ₪ case	1.90 @ 1.95	
Raw Cotton ...	0.4019 ₪ picul.	————— ₪ pcl.	10.00 @ 15.00	

## STAPLE EXPORTS.

**SILK.**—Since our last issue dated 11th, inst., demand has been fairly active, resulting in settlements to the extent of 480 bales. Arrivals have been on a free scale, and stock of all kinds now amounts to about 2,500 bales. Holders have shown great firmness and have succeeded in gradually establishing an advance of \$10 to \$20, the tendency being to demand still higher prices.

The Japanese brokers report that their new trade regulations for the sale of silk are to be put in force from the 1st, proximo. As no mutual understanding has been come to between sellers and foreign buyers on the subject, it is anticipated that they will not act smoothly.

TOTAL EXPORT FROM 1ST JULY TO DATE.										1880-81.	1881-82
London	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	617 Bales.	618 Bales.
France and Italy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	622 "	1,006 "
United States	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	812 "	287 "
										2,051 Bales.	1,889 Bales.

**TEA.**—Our Market shows but slight alteration on the state of affairs reported in last issue, during the interval a moderate business has been done amounting in all to some piculs 8,500, and prices show no marked fluctuation, holders of grades from Good Medium downwards being rather willing to realize whilst the better grades are more firmly held and only dealt out sparingly on the market.

Settlements for season to date amount in round figures:—

Settled in Yokohama	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	piculs 110,000
„ Kobe	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	„ 62,000
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	piculs 172,000

Against a Total same date for both ports of ... piculs 195,000

Concerning Stocks up country it is impossible to obtain any reliable information, accounts being so conflicting; but it seems possible that quite as large a quantity as was shipped last season can be sent this year if the American demand warrants it.

DESCRIPTION.	PRICES PER PICUL.	REMARKS.
<b>SILK:—</b>		
Mayebashi; 1½ @ 2 Hanks ...	\$ 615 to — per picul.	
„ 2 „	590 to 600 „	
„ 2½ „	570 to 580 „	
„ 3 and lower	520 to 540 „	
Kakedas; Good	630 to 650 „	
Filatures; Best	700 to 720 „	
„ Good	680 to 690 „	
Hamatski	— to — „	
Sendai and Osibu	— to — „	
<b>TEA:—</b>		
Common...	\$11.00 and under.	Grades from Good Medium downward close weak.
Good Common ... }	\$12.00 to \$14.00	
Medium ... }	\$16.00 to \$20.00	
Good Medium ... }	\$21.00 to \$24.00	
Fine ... }	\$26.00 to \$30.00	
Finest ... }	\$31.00 to \$34.00	
Choice ... }	\$36.00 and upwards.	

## EXCHANGE.

Business in exchange, during the fortnight, has been very limited and rates, in consequence, have fluctuated only very little, closing a farthing higher than last mail. Latest quotation of silver, 61½.

ON LONDON.—Bank	.....4 months' sight.....	8s. 8½d.
„ do.	.....Sight.....	3s. 8½d.
„ Credits	.....6 months' sight.....	3s. 9½d.
„ do.	.....4 do. ....	3s. 9d.
„ PARIS.—Bank.	.....Sight.....	4.66
„ Credits	.....6 months' sight.....	4.79
„ SHANGHAI.—Bank	.....Sight.....	72½
„ Private	.....10 days' sight.....	73

ON HONGKONG.—Bank	.....Sight.....	½ % discot.
„ Private	.....10 days' sight.....	½ " "
„ SAN FRANCISCO.—Bank	.....Sight.....	89½
„ Private	.....30 days' sight.....	90½
„ NEW YORK.—Bank	.....Sight.....	89½
„ Private	.....30 days' sight.....	90½

Kinsatsu, 163 per \$100.

# THE JAPAN GAZETTE,

A FORTNIGHTLY SUMMARY OF THE

## POLITICAL, COMMERCIAL, LITERARY, AND SOCIAL EVENTS OF JAPAN.

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YOKOHAMA, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1881.

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### BIRTHS.

On the 28th. Aug., at No. 215, Bluff, the wife of F. SCHMIDT, of a son.  
On the 4th September, at No. 44, Bluff, the wife of Mr. F. S. JAMES, of a daughter.

### Summary.

OUR last issue was dated August 25th. for transmission per O. & O. S. S. *Gaelic*. The following mails have since been received:—

P. M. S. *City of Tokio*, San Fr'co. Aug. 6, arr. Aug. 26  
P. & O. S. *Sunda*, London ..... July 15, " " 28  
M. M. S. *Menzaleh*, Marseilles... " 24, " Sept. 2  
O. & O. S. S. *Oceanic*, Hongkong Sept. 1, " " 7

And the following have been despatched:—

O. & O. S. S. *Gaelic*, San Francisco ..... Aug. 26  
P. M. S. *City of Tokio*, Hongkong ..... " 27  
M. M. S. *Tanais*, Marseilles ..... " 28  
P. & O. S. *Sunda*, London ..... Sept. 3

THE new Japanese penal code comes into operation in January next. Whilst showing manifest signs that the country is anxious to emerge from the almost impenetrable gloom—the gloom of error and superstition—in which it has been enveloped for centuries there is still room for progress. Japan is not yet prepared to appreciate all the advantages to be derived from Western civilization.

THE new kerosine regulations, to which we referred in our last issue, have been hotly discussed by both the vernacular and the foreign press. The most ridiculous and the most annoying part of the business is that, of all people in the world, the police are to be entrusted with the duty of testing the flashing and burning qualities of the oil! Probably they have as much notion of how to do it as they have of solving the integral calculus. Moreover, what guarantee have we of their honesty? Sir Robert Walpole used to say that every man had his price. Their paltry pay, taken in conjunction with recent depredations evidently connived at, leads one to suppose that the Japanese police have theirs. A few yen judiciously disposed would go far towards ensuring the passing of inferior oil.

THE silk trade is always a "burning question" amongst the Japanese; they are ever on the alert lest the odious foreigner shall prove "one too many for them." The latest "new departure" in the business is the establishment of a Union Silk Depot Company. The rules and regulations which have been published show a terrible earnestness amongst its promoters. European traders in silk had better look out or they will find that it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of—the Union Silk Depot Company.

CHOLERA has again made its appearance in Japan and singular to say, it has broken out in Kagoshima, the very same place in which the first cases occurred in 1877 when it made sad havoc through the land. The epidemic is said to be spreading rapidly; but it is hoped that, by a due regard to sanitary

precautions, this settlement may continue to enjoy its wonted immunity from infection.

"TELL it not in Gath; proclaim it not in the streets of Ascalon" that a foreign newspaper published in this *Ultima Thule* of civilization hath been subsidized by the Japanese government! An ugly rumour is afloat that a certain department subscribes for three hundred copies of one of the three English journals published in Yokohama. Both the *Japan Gazette* and the *Japan Herald* have most emphatically denied the statement as regards themselves; but the *Japan Mail* hangs fire. It admits that the foreign department subscribes for a large number of copies, how many he does not say, except that it is not three hundred. The proprietor reproduces a letter addressed by himself to H. E. the Vice-Minister for foreign affairs, acknowledging the subscription but asserting his independence as far as criticism is concerned. It is a significant fact that the present editor and proprietor was, until very recently, in the employ of the Japanese government, and that since he has held the editorial chair, the paper has been decidedly pro-Japanese in its utterances, and has steadfastly supported the very measures the government have most at heart.

THE public meeting recently held at Tokio, has a strong significance. It not only marks the strong feeling of indignation which has been excited by the Kaitakushi job, but it affords strong evidence of a growing determination on the part of the people to freely criticise the acts of their rulers and not to take everything on trust.

PAPER currency is regarded with especial favor by the people of Japan. It no doubt possesses many advantages, but immunity from fraud is not one of them. Counterfeit notes are very plentiful in Osaka, where, as many as fifty or sixty a day have lately been detected. Many have also been circulated in Tokio but, in spite of extra precaution and vigilance, the source or sources, from whence they emanate, have not yet been discovered.

THE rice crops in one district are reported as being extraordinarily good. A vernacular contemporary, with an amount of pathos that would touch the heart of Sir Wilfred Lawson, expresses sad trouble of mind lest a large proportion of the grain shall be used for brewing purposes.

RUMOURS of war between China and Japan are still afloat, and there is some talk of an embassy being sent to Peking to effect a solution of the difficulty which exists between the two countries.

THE hull of the U.S.S. *Oneida*, which ship was run down by the P. & O. S. S. *Bombay* off the Saratoga Spit on 24th. Jan. 1870, was blown up with dynamite on Sunday the 4th. inst. by an enterprising Japanese, acting under orders of the government.

## Leading Articles.

### THE NEW JAPANESE PENAL CODE.

IN the present article it is not our intention to criticise either the Penal Code or the Code of Criminal Procedure which were promulgated by the Prime Minister in the autumn of last year. It is well known that these were drawn up by a distinguished French legist, on the model of the *Code Napoleon*, the peculiar customs and ancient laws of Japan being incorporated so far as the spirit of modern legislation would permit. On another occasion we may examine how this has been done; at present we will confine ourselves to some striking points in the code. It consists of 430 clauses divided into four books. The first relates to general provisions; the second to crimes and misdemeanors against the public; the third to crimes and misdemeanors against the persons and property of individuals, and the fourth to petty or police offences. The provisions of the code are not stated to be applicable to persons liable to military or naval tribunals; in other words, soldiers and sailors can only be tried before their own courts, even for offences other than military. This withdrawal of these classes of subjects from the operation of ordinary law is, we believe, unusual, and we think impolitic. It fosters a spirit of opposition and antagonism between them and the people: the military class are at all times disposed to regard themselves as a *caste* apart, "a law unto themselves"; and their liability, as in England, to the usual courts for all except military offences is, we think, excellent both in principle and practice. The chief punishments are death, hard labour for life, or for a term of years, transportation for life or for a term of years, confinement, fines, deprivation of civil rights, and police supervision. It is provided in clause 12 that death shall be by hanging in the interior of a prison, and that the body shall be given up to the relatives on their promise to bury it without any public ceremony. It would thus seem that decapitation will be abolished. This also is a change of doubtful advantage. The painful scenes so often enacted on a gallows can rarely take place when decapitation is resorted to, and we have always thought the Japanese method of decapitation one of the most rapid, decorous, and merciful modes of execution that could be invented. Transportation, it is explained, will take place to some island, where the prisoners will be detained without undergoing hard labour. Deprivation of civil rights, whether temporary or permanent, entails the loss of all rights reserved to Japanese subjects, of all offices under government, of every pension, national decoration or title, incapacity to serve in army or navy, to bear witness in a court of justice, to be a teacher or guardian of youth, or to hold office in any society or corporation. After three-fourths of any term of punishment have expired, a prisoner who has been of good conduct, and shown proofs of amendment, may be set at liberty by an act of the administration. Twelve years of age is the limit at which responsibility for crime commences; but special discretion is left to the judge as to the treatment of juvenile criminals between twelve and sixteen. Between sixteen and twenty the punishment for crimes or misdemeanors is to be reduced one degree.

We are glad to notice in this section on crimes the total absence of any distinction of class in the punishments. Justice became a byword when an individual, simply because he was a samurai or of other privileged rank could escape merited punishment by the payment of a small nominal fine; while another person not belonging to the favoured caste, for precisely the same offence, underwent a lengthened term of imprisonment. The present code shows no respect for persons in the matter of punishment, and this in itself is a very long stride in the right direction.

In the book on crimes against the public we find that any crime or attempt against the person of the emperor, empress, or crown prince is punishable with death. The punishment awarded for violence or menaces to public officers in the discharge of their duties do not seem to us by any means so severe as might be expected in a bureaucratic country like Japan; but clause 141 which orders that insult or annoyance to an official in discharge of his duty, by gestures or words, whether it be by the press or by speeches not in the presence of the officer himself, shall be punished by fine or imprisonment, is capable of a very wide extension which it will doubtless receive from judges who are themselves only so many officials of certain grades.

We must confess, on looking over the index to the volume, to have turned with considerable curiosity to the paragraphs relating to false witness—perjury it can hardly be called inasmuch as there is no oath administered. Past experience had led us to form the opinion that Japanese witnesses were not very trustworthy, that they looked rather to the proper dovetailing of their facts into a plausible narrative, than to the precise accuracy of the facts themselves. It was known that they had none of the solemn sanctions imposed by an oath or affirmation, strengthened by a witness's knowledge that the punishment for perjury would be very severe. Nor were we aware of any decree authorising punishment for false witness in civil or criminal cases, except the defendant were convicted in the latter by such false witness, when, by the operation of a kind of *lex talionis*, the perjurer, if we may so call him, received the punishment awarded to the crime of which he had falsely accused the other. In the present code we find that any one bearing false witness, knowingly and wilfully, in favour of another, either by denying facts that are true, or affirming falsely, shall be punished according to the nature of the offence with which that person is charged by imprisonment with hard labour for not less than two months or more than two years, and a fine of from two to forty *yen*. This is to be increased one degree if the accused has, by means of such false evidence avoided the punishment to which he was justly subject. When the evidence is against an accused, the witness is liable to imprisonment for a period not exceeding five years. It is further provided that if a prisoner is condemned, on account of false evidence, to a punishment which he has undergone before his innocence has been discovered, and which is heavier than the usual sentence for perjury, then the perjurer shall undergo the same punishment as his victim. Death is the punishment for any witness who has falsely "sworn away the life" of another. However just this last may seem, the infliction of capital punishment in such cases does not rest on a sound foundation. "The mere attempt to destroy life by other means not

being capital," very justly remarks STEPHEN in his *Commentaries on the laws of England*, "there is no reason that an attempt by perjury should be so; and therefore it seems, except perhaps in the instance of deliberate murder by perjury, very properly punished by our present law; which has adopted the opinion of CICERO derived from the law of the Twelve Tables, *perjurii poena divina exitium, humana dedecus!*" Another reason why the extreme punishment should not be inflicted in such cases is the danger of deterring witnesses from giving evidence in capital cases at all. The risk is too great. By article 223, any one bearing false witness in civil matters shall be punished by imprisonment with hard labour from one month to one year, and to a fine of from five to fifty *yen*. This last provision will be very welcome to foreigners having cases in native courts. They now know the punishment attaching to false statements made in a court of justice, and it will be some comfort to them to know that they can always pursue a false witness.

In connection with some questions raised in a recent *cause célèbre*, which, thanks to the energy with which it was conducted, is full of instruction for foreigners, we may notice the absence of any provision in the code for punishing recalcitrant witnesses, or for what is known in English and American courts as "contempt of court." It is possible, however, that some provision may be found in the code of criminal procedure, which we shall examine shortly.

When we remember the effects said to be produced by the consumption of opium in China and Burmah, as well as the strenuous efforts which the Japanese government have made to keep the drug out of this country, we can hardly be surprised that the punishments for introducing it into Japan or consuming it are very severe. It is provided that any one preparing opium for smoking, or sale, shall be condemned to imprisonment with hard labour for long periods; and that punishments under this head shall be increased one degree for custom-house officers corruptly admitting opium, or instruments for preparing or consuming it. Smoking of opium is punishable by imprisonment with hard labour for from two to three years. Every friend to Japan would lament the spread among any portion of its people of the demoralizing habit of opium smoking, and therefore we think the government wise in attaching very heavy penalties to any endeavour to introduce the drug.

A short time since we referred in a note to medical practitioners in this country; we now find that a fine of from ten to a hundred *yen* is to be imposed on any one practising as a physician or surgeon without obtaining the permission required by law, and that any injury caused to a patient by any one practising illicitly is to be punished in the same manner as if these injuries had been caused during an assault. We are pleased to notice a provision ordering acts against public decency to be punishable by a fine, as well as the act of exposing or selling indecent or obscene books and pictures. We now come to a section which will be read with much interest by foreigners viz.: that dealing with offences against the freedom of trade or of industrial or agricultural labour. Article 267 orders imprisonment from one to six months with a fine of three to thirty *yen* for attempts to obstruct the sale of rice or other food products; and imprisonment with hard labour for fifteen days to three months with a corresponding fine for attempts by force or conspiracy to interfere with the freedom of



sales by public auction. We invite the especial attention of our local auctioneers to this last provision; in these columns we have frequently referred to the hardship and loss which they suffer from illegal combinations amongst purchasers; now they would seem to have the remedy in their own hands. Combinations amongst workmen in order to raise their wages by compelling other workmen to cease—"rattening" as it is known in England—is also punishable by fine and imprisonment.

Tyranny or other illegal conduct towards private persons by public officers is also severely punished. The acceptance of bribes by public functionaries subjects them to penal servitude for a year and a fine of forty yen, while in the case of a judge the punishment is doubled, and further increased one degree if an illegal decision is given in consequence of bribery. Endeavouring to produce abortion, or inciting to that offence, is punishable by imprisonment with hard labour up to five years. We find adultery also made a penal offence on the part of women, while bigamy is punished with two years penal servitude.

The clauses referring to bankruptcy are of much importance to all foreigners having dealings with Japanese. Hitherto we have been made only too painfully aware of the deficiencies of the law of bankruptcy in this country. Just claims against men known to be not only solvent, but rich, have been successfully prosecuted by foreign plaintiffs through all three courts, not, it is true, without long and incomprehensible delays, and after much money has been spent and time lost, the unfortunate claimant receives a communication from his consul to say that the defendant has been made a bankrupt, and his assets sold, realising a few yen. A list of these assets is generally appended, and comprises a few mats and blankets, an oil lamp, a *hibachi*, a few pots and kettles, and a chest of drawers. The creditor has the satisfaction of receiving a few *sen* dividend on a claim involving thousands of dollars, and considerable expense in following it. The new law orders that imprisonment with hard labour for four years, at the most, shall be the punishment of any one who, on becoming bankrupt, shall have made away with, or hidden, a portion of his assets, or who, at the same time, shall have made false statements respecting his liabilities. The same punishment, diminished one degree, shall be inflicted on any one aiding and abetting the bankrupt in committing this offence. Suppression or alteration of account books by a bankrupt, or the payment of one creditor to the detriment of the others are punishable by imprisonment with hard labour for two years.

We have not left ourselves space to refer at length to the fourth book dealing with police offences. They are of the description which any one acquainted with Japanese police regulations would expect—somewhat multitudinous in detail; but the punishments are all very light.

Without attempting now to decide finally on the construction and method of this code, we may say that it is far in advance of any similar enactment ever before made in Japan. The object of its framers is clearly to bring the penal laws of Japan into as close accord as possible with modern legal principles. For this they must get all credit, and to this extent the government are certainly entitled, to every praise for the code, to some of the salient points of which we have here endeavoured to attract attention.—Aug. 27.

### THE IMPORTS OF JAPAN.

EVERY report drawn up by Consul-General VAN BUREN on affairs in Japan, is marked by all those qualities which render such documents valuable. In the first place, the writer confines himself to the subject; he is never diffuse nor prolix: in the second place, his commentaries are eminently reasonable and fair; and, finally, a vein of strong common sense is visible in all his works. A report on "The Imports of Japan" recently presented by him to the department of state, possesses these qualities in an eminent degree, and we have much pleasure in reproducing it, omitting, for want of space, and as familiar to all those interested in these matters, the statistics of imports from all countries, the United States excepted. These statistics are taken from the customs official returns, and cannot be always relied upon as strictly correct. The want of more accurate trade returns is very much felt. Those prepared by the customs for the year terminating June 30th, are supplemented by returns prepared by H. B. M. consuls, for the year ending December 31st. Both returns are supposed to be made up from the same bases, yet considerable discrepancies are observable. Thus for the year ending December 31, 1878, of the consular returns, and the two half years June 30th and December 31st, 1878, of the customs, the totals show the following marked differences, important in relation to the extent of the trade, but doubly so when the slow growth of Japanese commerce renders accuracy in the preparation of statistics indispensable to a correct understanding of the position.

	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
Consular.....	\$33,384,393	\$26,259,419	\$59,593,811
Customs .....	32,583,868	25,524,570	58,088,438
Differences...	\$ 770,529	\$ 734,849	\$ 1,505,378

The figures in either case are, therefore, approximate merely.

Consul-General VAN BUREN's remarks on the import of yarn are to the point. The quality of yarn Japan requires can be supplied from Great Britain and British India at prices with which at present United States manufacturers are not in a position to compete. As we pointed out in reply to Colonel DICKINSON, the import of American yarn into Japan is purely a question of whether it will pay or not. To-day the best water twist, number 28-32, is worth \$35.75 per picul. From this must be deducted the storage charges, duty, fire insurance, merchant's commission, &c. aggregating, at the lowest, nine per cent.; and the net sum may be remitted either in sterling drafts at 3s. 9d., 4 months sight, or 89½ on demand on New York for U. S. gold. American yarn manufacturers may make conclusive calculations on these strictly correct figures.

Cotton fabrics used in Japan are chiefly of the commonest kind, grey shirting being the principal article. It is this material about which so many complaints have been made regarding its adulteration, and Consul-General VAN BUREN is one of the very few officials who have dealt with this matter in a proper light. The essentially common material known as grey shirting is used only by the poorest classes in both China and Japan; and in this country its import is decreasing. The sizing or "filling" with which this material is adulterated, gives to a thin fabric a weight, solidity, and warmth, without detracting from the appearance of the cloth, which could not

be obtained at less than double the cost if only cotton were used. Consumers know this very well; and they are quite content with the material as it is, and at its present range of prices. American manufacturers will find that if they offer a cotton cloth of the same size and weight, composed of pure cotton, that is without the stiffening filling, at the same price as the ordinary Manchester grey shirting, they will still be at a disadvantage with regard to ready sale, while the cost of their goods compared with the other, must entail heavy losses. The cotton shirting Japan requires is of an inferior class; the favourite size and weight being 38½ yards long and 45 inches wide, weighing 9 lbs., which can be sold at from \$2.10 to \$2.75 per piece. These particulars are sufficient to determine the American manufacturer whether the trade offers sufficient inducement or otherwise; but we very strongly endorse General VAN BUREN's suggestion that it will be well to consider whether goods specially made to meet the peculiar requirements of this market, and of China also, will pay American manufacturers in the end. One thing eminently requisite for them to acknowledge is, that the adulteration cry is deceptive. The so-called adulterated goods are preferred by people who thoroughly understand what they are; and while it is questionable whether pure cotton shirtings would displace them at the same price, it is certain they would have no chance at prices remunerative to the shipper.

The same reasoning applies to white shirting, although these goods are usually of superior quality to other cotton fabrics. The gross import, however, is not one-thirtieth that of grey shirtings, and as the demand fluctuates without any sign of permanent increase the question is not worth the trouble of discussion.

The articles referred to by the Consul-General as articles in which the United States could and should do a larger trade, are in but limited demand. The United States is a protected country, and we have undeniable evidence before us that no protected manufacturer can compete with a free manufacturer. Of this fact the Japanese had a practical illustration when the managers of the Sapporo railway made the mistake of purchasing English rails in bond in New York, and transhipping them thence to Yezo. This was a serious error; for Japanese now urge, in reply to those who recommend American products, that they can get these things cheaper in other countries, as is proved by the fact that when an American engineer builds a railway for us he buys the rails in England; thereby setting us an example we shall not be slow to imitate. The unwelcome truth will some day strike home that Americans, with all the ability, energy, enterprise, and capital to take the lead in the commerce of the world, must be content to limit her operations to the sale of raw material; of produce upon which free trade countries can utilize their spare labour; and that so long as native manufacturers have to be nursed, and protected by heavy import tariffs from external competition, the export of manufactured goods becomes a manifest impossibility.

There is one item to which some attention should be paid. If the customs returns be referred to "implements and tools" stand for only \$2,733, included among the exports from the United States. No country in the world can produce such perfect agricultural implements as the States, and so cheaply, when the perfection of quality is considered. This is an agricultural

country almost devoid of all labour-saving implements; and the introduction of some of the simpler and more immediately useful would be a vast benefit to the mass of the people, and, in course of time, would branch out into an important trade with the United States.—Aug. 30.

### TRIAL BY JURY.

**T**HERE are few things more interesting to the student of the history of our own times than to watch the rise of liberal institutions in new countries; to mark the growth of those laws which have for their primary object the good of the people; and to note the share of confidence the rulers repose in those whose interests should be the highest inspiration of the governing power. Japan is a nation just emerging from the seclusion of ages. In her we see a country that a quarter of a century ago had no intercourse with the outer world. This beautiful land was a garden, created to be the pleasure ground of the nobles, who exercised, each in accordance with his rank and wealth, despotic sway over the lives and property of the people who were made for no higher purpose than to administer to the wants of their feudal chieftains. Probably the people of those days were happy; happy as serfs or slaves living by the sufferance of their lords can ever be; and contented that of the fruits of their industry they should be graciously permitted to retain one-fourth for their family wants: happy in their ignorance, devoid of ambition, they looked forward without hope that their own or their successors' lives of toil would ever be ameliorated. But the day came when the flag of a nation of free men approached the metropolis; communications were opened, treaties followed, trade began and grew rapidly, and before the name of this country had become familiar in the West a social and political revolution ensued, the effect of which was to awaken the people to a just sense of their duties, powers, and responsibilities as members of the new state to be recognized and welcomed into the comity of nations as the Empire of Japan.

That a revolution so complete could have been effected in any other nation of which we have knowledge is doubtful; the conditions which conduced to its success have no parallel in other countries; the favourable issue of the experiment here being due in a marked and altogether inestimable degree to the sense, docility, and assimilative powers of the people; of that section of the people now defined as the middle class, who, previous to the advent of their liberators, the foreigners, had no independent existence—who lived but as serfs of the soil, and the feudatories of their supreme and irresponsible lords.

Those who are on terms more or less intimate with Japanese of the middle class, the men who are in no wise connected with officialdom, aver that, under an outward seeming of simplicity, there is a fund of common sense made useful by an education above that of the average standard of other countries; an ardent patriotism, and an irrepressible desire for the enjoyment of those political rights without which no man can be regarded as other than a slave. Add to these qualifications a strong sense of right and justice, and an unquestioning loyalty to the person and rule of the Mikado; and we behold the Japanese before his nature is soured by the destructive influences of a form of government which denies to him the meanest political right.

The desire of Japan to assume her proper

place among civilized nations is shown by an evidently earnest and creditable attempt to codify the civil and penal laws. The records of the country afforded no basis for this work, and resort has been had to the models which other countries, notably France, have presented to her observation. Of the merits of these codes it is not our intention to speak at this moment, except upon one point which, trifling as it may seem of itself, is highly significant when considered in connection with the position held by the Japanese people. "Trial by jury" says a contemporary, "does not find a place among the new enactments, avowedly because the standard of education among the middle classes of Japan is not sufficiently high to warrant the government in entrusting them with such a privilege." "Education" was subsequently defined to be 'political'; not the education of the schools; and we were told that this government were too wise to cast away the trammels of old traditions, and pass at once to the conditions of a higher political civilization than their own. Finally, an attempt is made to question the utility and value of trial by jury in those countries where it is a fundamental principle of the constitution. The illustration used to support this last proposition is *a fortiori* in favour of the institution of trial by jury. Thus, alluding to land league trials in Ireland as probable failures of justice if undertaken at the present day, the writer says, 'not that any of the twelve men would willingly violate his oath, but he simply finds it impossible to bring in a verdict of guilty against a man who has thought and acted precisely as he would himself think and act under similar conditions.' Can the value and importance of a jury be better defined than in this passage? How many times have juries interposed an impassable barrier between the oppressor and the oppressed? No human law ever made is so perfect that its operation may not, under special conditions, do grievous wrong; and in those cases, above all, independent juries are called upon to judge both of the facts and the law, and to say whether the offence charged by the law is, in their judgment as men conversant with the conditions of that society of which the accused is a member, justified or otherwise. From the acquittal of the seven bishops, to the memorable struggle with Lord Chancellor HARDWICKE and Lord MANSFIELD, and the passage of the bill of Mr. FOX empowering juries to judge alike of the facts and the law, the common jury in England has been the champion of freedom and the protector of individual rights against the aggressions of authority. Like all similar institutions of undoubted value, trial by jury is apt to be abused; but as a rule it works well, and, when a great question affecting the liberty of the subject arises, most happily for the freedom of the English people, not all the influence, pressure, or power of the government used unjustly can avail against the meanest citizen. Naturally, therefore, despotic or personal governments both fear and hate the institution of trial by jury; and Japan is under personal rule.

Other objections urged against Japanese jurymen on the ground of possible prejudice apply with ten-fold force to the paid judges whose appointments depend upon the will and pleasure of a possible party to a cause they may have to try.

In plain language, the edict and its justification mean, that in the whole of Japan there are not twelve men competent to decide upon the merits of causes to each of which one of themselves must be a party. This is the

dictum of the government. In 1868 the government consisted of four members of the imperial house, twelve *kugé*, and six *daimio*. The *sangi* who now administer the government, or have been members of it at different times, were then clerks or subordinate officials in the various departments. THAS KIDO and GOTO SHOJIRO were subordinates in the prime minister's department; OKUBO, in the home department; ITO, INOUE, and TERASHIMA, in the foreign office, and OKUMA, in the finance department. Gradually those subordinate officials absorbed the whole governing power which they retain at this day, the only member of the royal family in the government being Prince ARISUGAWA-NO-MIYA, whose nomination to his present position was only made about two years ago. The present government may therefore be fairly considered to be of the middle rank of Japanese society; members of that class now declared to be unfit to furnish a jury: and it is scant justice to the Japanese people to say that those foreigners who have any knowledge of this country regard the refusal of the right of trial by jury, in some cases at least, as an insult to popular intelligence: while to foreign nations who base their opinions upon the known acts of the government, the refusal of this reasonable privilege is a direct intimation that the middle classes of Japan are an uneducated tribe of barbarians.

Exception has been taken to a statement made in this journal to the effect that trial by jury was introduced into England by ALFRED, on the ground that there is a great distinction between the jury of those days and of the present time. The same objection has been made to us privately. We still, however, adhere to the text of the passage in our article of July 30th, though its bearing upon the subject is not very important. FREEMAN, in his admirable work on the Norman Conquest, says:—"At this time of day, no one need waste his time in proving that trial by jury was not invented by ALFRED, and it is almost as needless to prove that it was not brought ready-made in the keels of HENGEST and HOSEA, that it was not copied from this or that German or Scandinavian land, and that, if it was not brought over ready-made by HENGEST, neither was it brought over ready-made by WILLIAM. All notions of this kind, though they have often been maintained with much learning and much ingenuity, go on a misconception of the early history of institutions. Trial by jury, in the form in which we now see it, was certainly not invented or introduced by any particular man at any particular time. If by trial by jury we mean, any kind of trial in which the case is decided by the oaths of men taken from among the community at large, then trial by jury is as old as any institution of the Teutonic race." For an epitome of the various theories on this subject, we refer to STUBBS' *Constitutional History*, Volume I, pp. 612 *et seq.*

The applicability of the jury system to the Japanese community is a question capable of wide discussion. The government say the nation is unfit for it, and there the matter rests. What we have done has been to point out that while Japan is supposed to desire absolute jurisdiction over foreigners resident upon her shores, we have before us the undeniable evidence that the judges are without legal training, wholly ignorant of commercial usages, hold their offices at the pleasure of the government, and are drawn from the identical class of the people now authoritatively declared to be unfit to furnish a jury.

—Sept. 3.

## Miscellaneous Articles.

## TELEGRAPH MONOPOLIES.

GRAVE doubts cross our mind in regard to the future of telegraphic communication between Japan, Europe, and the United States, and that these fears are not without foundation we are prepared to show.

The Great Northern Telegraph Company is at present the only company having a cable in Japan; and from trustworthy information received to-day we believe an effort is to be made by, or on behalf of, that company, to obtain a concession from the Japanese government which will be virtually a monopoly of telegraphs between Japan, China, Europe, and the United States; an exclusive concessional right for a number of years which will affect our merchants in the most serious manner, unless they adopt those measures which persons so deeply concerned deem fit for the protection of their own interests.

When Mr. CYRUS FIELD visited Japan a year ago he expressed himself very hopefully respecting a Pacific cable to connect Japan with the West *via* the United States; and as Mr. JAY GOULD, who has laid down an Atlantic cable for himself and is now master of all the United States land lines, is the capitalist to whom we naturally look for similar enterprise in this part of the world, we suggest that he should be informed of the movement believed to be on foot to procure, possibly, by means of diplomatic influence or pressure, a monopoly which will exclude him and every one else from competition in a field where competition is most desirable. Perhaps this matter may not be undeserving of the attention of Mr. BINGHAM, the United States minister; for we understand that Mr. CYRUS W. FIELD is now engaged, with every prospect of success, in an endeavour to form, either in conjunction with Mr. JAY GOULD, or independently, a Pacific Cable Company, and it follows that any movement of this sort must be beneficial to Japan, and that any concession of a monopoly to the Great Northern Company, or any other company, will have a diametrically opposite effect, and prove injurious to all interests. For Japan the monopoly would be an evil political, strategic, and commercial. Nothing the promoters of any such scheme are or may be prepared to offer will recompense the nation for a grant which will place her at the mercy of a company whose service is, it is said with much justice, generally regarded as slow, irregular, unsatisfactory, and excessively expensive; none of which disadvantages to the public are likely to be removed if the monopoly sought should be obtained.

The Great Northern Company, stimulated by competition, would no doubt improve; consequently, for that reason as well as on all grounds of national and public policy, monopolies are to be denounced. We hope, therefore, that no overtures having for their object the acquisition of an exclusive right to telegraphs between Japan and the world will receive the slightest consideration from the government of this country, notwithstanding the proposals may be urged by the minister representing Danish interests.

Danish interests in this country may be summed up in few words. There are twenty-seven residents, and the trade with Denmark was last year valued at \$5,616.

Not in this part of the world alone is the feeling prevalent that telegraph companies require some check at the hands of the public. The home journals write very plainly and to the point. One journal refers to the English monopolists as being in an impossible position. These possessors of certain cables came to the conclusion that they might charge what rates they pleased, because they were the owners of a monopoly. On these rates they estimated their profits, and then proceeded to create a vast sum of paper capital to represent them in capitalised form. In any business where there is no real monopoly, excessive profits attract competition. This was the case with Atlantic cable companies. At present the would be monopolists posture as benefactors of the human species, and denounce all competition as a crime. No one pays attention to these doleful utterances, and as their monopoly is *de facto* not *de jure* they adopt the only plan left to them, which is to buy off opposition. Now these self-assertive monopolists have to meet a competitor they little dreamed of. Mr. JAY GOULD is credited with the intention to reduce rates so low, that the English and French companies will be ruined, and then to buy up their shares. This seems very like the exchange of one monopoly for another; but there is always a remedy against overcharges and bad quality of service, provided no government concession of an exclusive right has been granted. Truth, in connection with this matter, very truly says:—"No sort of sympathy can be felt for the 'Cable Ring.' Ocean telegraphy, under their auspices, has been converted into an odious financing scheme, in which it was intended to earn dividends upon paper issues of shares by charging excessive rates. I sincerely trust that when the bottom of the Atlantic has been liberated, our telegraphic communication with the Levant and with India will be taken in hand. A competing company in eastern seas, with a fair and honest capital, would put an end to the present high rates." This is quite correct, and we have merely to add to these remarks that as the reform of the entire system of telegraphy, *per mare, per terram*, is a question to which public attention is strongly attracted, Japan, will act wisely in all events, offering any concession she may be disposed to make publicly to the highest bidder. We hope, however, in her own interests, and especially in the interests of her newly awakening commerce, that the government will turn a deaf ear to the voice of the telegraph charmer.—Aug. 24.

## QUELPAERT AND KOREA TWO CENTURIES AGO.

IT is but a few years since attention was first directed in this country to the island of Quelpaert by the wreck of a British vessel, the *Barbara Taylor*, and also of an Italian barque on its shores. It is out of the path of ordinary navigation, and has probably never been visited for purposes of curiosity by any one. Our information respecting it is therefore confined to the account of the recent visit of a British consular official, who proceeded there to thank the islanders for their humane treatment of his unfortunate countrymen. Foreign travellers in Korea are also few in number; and the only accounts of the country with which we are acquainted are those of the Jesuit fathers who found their way there from the Chinese frontier under

various disguises. To one of these, namely that of Monseigneur Ridel, we shall shortly call attention. At present our business is with a description of Korea and Quelpaert more than two centuries ago, and with the adventures of a little group of Europeans there.

The work which we propose abridging is entitled:—*An Account of the Shipwreck of a Dutch vessel on the coast of the Isle of Quelpaert, together with a description of the Kingdom of Corea. Translated out of the French. It is to be found in a large folio work printed in 1704, called, A Collection of Voyages and Travels, some now first printed from the Original Manuscripts, others translated from Foreign Languages, and now first put in English. To which are added some few that have formerly appeared in English, but do now for their Excellency and Scarceness deserve to be Reprinted.* The work was written by the ship's "secretary," purser, or supercargo probably, who was one of those who escaped, first from shipwreck, and, after thirteen years captivity, from the hands of the Koreans. Although he recounts nothing that seems wonderful to us at the present day, the editor of the collection in which the narrative appears, thought it necessary vigorously, and even violently, to defend his veracity. In doing so, he refers with many expressions of contempt, to those "creatures who will not go abroad to learn for themselves, but who, at the same time, declare that those who do so and afterwards write of their adventures are imposing on the credulity of others." The vessel, to the wreck of which we are indebted for the story which we now proceed to abridge, sailed from the Texel January 10th, 1653, having on board the governor of the Netherlands India and his suite. On the first of June they arrived safely at Batavia, but were ordered away immediately to Taiwan, in Formosa, to carry the Dutch agent or vice-governor. On their arrival there they were despatched on that voyage to Japan which was destined never to be completed. They sailed from Taiwan on July 30th, but as they were about to leave the Formosa channel, they encountered a storm which lasted for fifteen days. They were unable to take observations, or to cook any food; ultimately they were forced to take in all sail, strike the yards, and commit themselves to the mercy of the waves. The vessel was gradually driven towards some high land, and, as the hurricane was increasing, and they were shipping so much water that some of their comrades were drowned in the hold, they jumped overboard. Thirty-six out of sixty-four succeeded in reaching land safely; others were either drowned on board or between the ship and the shore. They remained in the neighbourhood of the wreck all night, and the following morning buried the bodies of such of their comrades as they could find, and collected provisions or other articles that were floated from the wreck. During the following day they were unmolested except by one or two natives coming to neighbouring eminences to watch them; but when the seamen attempted to approach them they ran away. On the second day, however, they were surrounded early in the morning by a body of about 2,000 men, dressed in Chinese fashion, except that they wore horse-hair caps, whom they took for wild Chinese or pirates; the survivors were taken from their huts, and round the neck of each was placed a great iron chain with a bell attached. After being taken before the commander, and forced to prostrate themselves, they were supplied with a coarse

kind of rice for food. The islanders then turned their attention to the wreck; they removed all the articles they could find to a safe place, and sealed them up. Some of the people who were found stealing portions of the cargo, were brought before the chief or commander, and received forty blows with a bamboo on the soles of the feet. This seemed to promise well for the future treatment of the Dutch—a promise which, however, was not very well fulfilled. After narrating their story, and entreating to be allowed to go on to their countrymen in Japan, they were told that this was the island of Quelpaert or Sehesura, as it is called by the natives. It is, the writer says, about fourteen or fifteen leagues in circumference; its harbours are few and exposed; and navigation near the coast is dangerous on account of sunken rocks. The island abounds in horses and cattle; it has one very high mountain covered with wood to the summit. Guarded by soldiers, they were led away from the scene of the wreck to the chief town of the island, and carried before the governor. He treated them with much kindness giving them houses to dwell in, and good food to eat. "He also took such care of our sick that we may affirm we were better treated by that idolater, than we should have been among Christians." Hitherto they had been able to converse only by signs; but the governor, in sending to the capital of Korea to inquire what he should do with the Dutchmen, seems to have asked also for an interpreter. The latter appeared after some weeks, dressed as a Korean, (or Coresian as the "secretary" writes) and astonished the mariners by telling them he was a countryman of theirs. His story, about which there does not seem to be the slightest doubt, was that he had sailed from Holland for Java, Formosa, and Japan in a Dutch man-of-war, that the latter had been wrecked in 1627, more than a quarter of a century before, and that only a small number of his comrades were saved; of these he was the sole remaining one; for they had entered the military service of the King of Korea, and had been killed fighting against the Tartars. He lived in Seoul, the capital, and had repeatedly asked leave to join his countrymen in Japan, but was refused. The king told him that it was an ancient law of Korea that no stranger, who once touched their shores, should be allowed to depart; he must live and die in the country. He told them he was well-treated, but had almost forgotten his mother-tongue, which is not surprising when we remember that he had been nearly thirty years in Korea at the time.

While they were waiting for a reply from the capital as to their ultimate destination, the governor, who was their friend, was replaced by another, who treated them badly, giving them insufficient and unhealthy food, and forcing them to work like slaves. This continuing for some time, a few of the hotter spirits endeavoured to escape by seizing a boat, but were prevented by some of the natives, who put to sea after them. They were brought back and beaten with bamboos on the soles of the feet, and the treatment of all became much worse. At last, much to their relief, in May 1654, or about nine months after the shipwreck, an order came that they were to be taken to the capital. In crossing over to the mainland, which occupied a day and a night, they were tied by the wrists to the sides of the boat, as their guards were afraid that while they were sea-sick the prisoners would attempt to throw themselves into the sea.

We may pass over the account of their journey from the coast to Seoul. The populace, although crowding around them, were very civil. On arriving at the capital they were allowed to live three or four together in little huts, and were soon taken before the king. After telling their story they entreated to be permitted to go to Japan, but were told they must make up their minds to live and die in the country, as it was against the ancient custom of the country to allow them to leave. They were forced to sing, dance, leap, &c., before the king, exactly as we have heard of Dutch ambassadors doing before the Shogun. They were finally placed in the king's life-guards under the command of their countryman, the interpreter, and were each granted seventy catties of rice pay per month. The people treated them well, although their hut was constantly invaded by crowds who wished to see how the strangers lived. Here they might have lived and died peaceably, had it not been for their desire to return again to Europe, which led them into an act that seems never to have been forgiven. An ambassador from "the great Cham," the Tartar ruler, came to Korea for tribute; and seeing that the Koreans were much afraid of him, two of the Dutchmen, as a deputation from the whole number, made their way into his presence and implored his assistance to obtain their release. He seems to have taken no interest in them for the two unfortunate men were seized by the Koreans and thrown into prison, where they soon after died, whether violently or not is unknown. The hardships of the remainder now commenced. They were banished to the southern coast, so that they could not again come across the Tartar envoy; they were stripped of their pay and position, and were compelled to pull up the grass and weeds in the squares of the town in which they were kept. The governor refused to provide them with any food or clothing, and, as the winter is very rigorous there, the poor men suffered grievous privations. They were compelled to go through the town and neighbouring villages to beg for food and clothes. The writer speaks highly of the charitable nature of the common people, and of the sympathy which they received from them. To add to their misery a terrible famine afflicted the land in the years 1661 and 1662, and at the commencement of 1663 their number had dwindled from 36 to 22 through hardship, disease, and starvation. Sometimes a change of governors improved their condition for a short time; but as a rule they seem to have been treated with harshness, and even cruelty. In 1663 for some unexplained reason, the survivors were separated into three parties, and sent to three different castle towns. Two of these now fall out of the chronicle, and we hear no more of them; possibly at some future time, when Korea is opened to the world, scholars will find in Korean books some trace of the Dutchmen whom we must now leave to follow the fortunes of the "secretary's" party. The town in which they were placed was on the coast, and they were allowed to paddle in small boats in the neighbourhood on their begging excursions. Here they again determined to make an attempt to cross over to Japan. A native who was very friendly to them described the nature of the passage, the distance, direction, &c. They made several guarded attempts to purchase a larger vessel; and at last got a Korean to buy a small barque for them, on the pretence that they wanted to go to the neighbouring islands to beg. On September 6th, 1665, everything being in readiness, they dropped down a

river and a favourable wind springing up opportunely, they arrived off the coast of Kiushiu on the morning of the second day after their departure. They coasted south towards Nagasaki, and were driven on the Goto islands; here they were taken in charge by the officials and sent to Nagasaki, where they found a vessel on the point of sailing for Europe. They took passage in her, and arrived safely at Amsterdam, thirteen years and a month after leaving Holland. Twelve years of this were passed in captivity in Korea.

In another article we shall abridge the "secretary's" account of Korea and its people. The most interesting incident in the narrative which we have just recited, seems to be the meeting with the Dutchman who, as he was alive when the secretary's party escaped, must have been nearly half a century in the country. The story of Will Adams, his forced stay in Japan, and his success here, have attracted the interest of every Englishman in this quarter of the globe. But Adams, as his letters, republished a few years ago in the *Japan Gazette*, show, was highly honoured by the Japanese; his lines, in fact, had fallen in pleasant places, and he had frequent opportunities of seeing (and quarrelling with, it may be added) his own countrymen as well as other Europeans. With the poor Dutchman in Korea, however, everything seems to have been different. He was not the favourite of princes and great nobles, but was compelled to live in the same dirty huts as his countrymen, and to beg as they did. Koreans have recently, probably in order "that a greater evil may not befall them," become more humane to shipwrecked mariners; but it is clear that they did frequently evilly entreat the stranger in their midst. To the honour of the Japanese nation it will always be said that unfortunate persons cast on these shores have been invariably kindly treated.—Aug. 27.

#### PASSENGER REGULATIONS URGENTLY REQUIRED.

A CORRESPONDENT, whose letter in reference to the carriage of passengers by sea touches upon a point of vast importance to the large number of persons who annually travel from port to port on the coast of Japan, holds, and we think properly so, the government responsible for the perils these people are subjected to for want of efficient life-saving apparatus on board Japanese coasting steamers. In calling attention to this matter our correspondent does good service; and we respectfully commend his letter to the attention of the department of the government within whose province the subject matter of the communication comes, on the principle that legislation for the protection of human life is better undertaken before than after an accident, which might easily be of a most serious nature.

The vessels of the Mitsui Bishi Company which ply between Yokohama, Shanghai, and Hongkong appear in every respect well found; but we are inclined to doubt whether the appliances in the shape of boats &c. are sufficient for the passengers on board these vessels, between Yokohama and Kobe at all events; as many as six or seven hundred persons frequently voyaging in one vessel between these last named ports. These steamers are not built in compartments, and any serious accident from collision, rocks, &c., necessitating resort to the boats, would



have serious consequences. When vessels are ill supplied with boats fear is an additional cause of danger; and even apathetic as the Japanese people are supposed to be in time of imminent peril, an insufficiency of boats could not fail to aggravate the position. On the coast line the evils are especially great. Our correspondent mentions one particular case where a steamer often carrying three hundred passengers is equipped with only two boats capable of carrying sixty persons. Suppose this vessel to be in a sinking condition. There would be a dreadful struggle for the boats; one, and probably both, would be swamped with the rush of terrified persons; and, under the most favourable conditions some two hundred and fifty passengers and most of the crew would be drowned, under circumstances which would reflect the gravest discredit upon all, owners and government, responsible for the want of efficient life-saving apparatus.

As an example of legislation on this matter we instance the 18 and 19 Victoria, chapter 119, known as "The passengers act of 1855," and the 26 and 27 Victoria, chapter 51, known as "The passengers act amendment act, 1863." These acts contain express stipulations with regard to the number of passengers any vessel may carry; and for the safety of such passengers the following regulations are set out with regard to the carrying of boats.

Section 27. Every 'passenger ship' shall carry throughout the voyage a number of boats according to the following scale; (that is to say),

2 boats for every ship of less than 200 tons	
3 " " " " 200 and less than 400 tons	
4 " " " " 400 " " 600 "	
5 " " " " 600 " " 1000 "	
6 " " " " 1000 " " 1500 "	
7 boats for every ship of 1500 tons or upwards;	

provided that no 'passenger ship' shall be required to carry a greater number of boats than are sufficient in the judgment of the emigration officer at the port of clearance to carry all the persons on board of such ship:

One of such boats shall in all cases be a long boat, and one shall be a properly fitted life boat, which shall be carried in such a manner as to be, in the opinion of the emigration officer, most available for immediate service: each of such boats shall be of a suitable size and description to be approved by the emigration officer at the port of clearance, and shall be seaworthy and properly supplied with all requisites, and kept clear at all times for immediate use at sea: there shall likewise be on board each 'passenger ship' . . . a fire engine in proper working order, and of such description and power and either with or without such other apparatus for extinguishing fire as such officer may approve.

The government have from time to time issued regulations bearing upon sea-going vessels, such as those relating to certificated officers and pilots, regulations for avoiding collisions at sea, and other important matters, and generally, have shown the best disposition to protect those "that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in the great waters," but they do not seem to have given sufficient attention to the safety of their people who, utterly ignorant of the peril they encounter, take passage in ships so insufficiently provided with life-saving apparatus that an accident which, under ordinary conditions would involve a money loss only against which provision can be made, may become a disaster involving the sacrifice of hundreds of lives.

All commercial nations find it unsafe to trust to the humanity of shipowners to provide for the safety of their passengers; and as this traffic is constantly increasing in Japan it behoves this government to take action without delay. That such action is necessary seems certain, for, although the officers of some Japanese steamers, fully aware of the danger incurred, have frequently asked for proper provision of boats, &c., their reasonable requests have not, so far, been complied with.—Aug. 29.

#### THE WATER SUPPLY OF YOKOHAMA.

OF all sanitary reforms none are more needed in Yokohama than the provision of a sufficient quantity of wholesome drinking water. Unfortunately but little attention is paid to the subject under ordinary circumstances; when epidemics occur there is a scare resulting in an exaggerated apprehension of trifling dangers, and an attention to minute details of habits and conditions of life as vexations and annoying while it lasts, as it is luckily short-lived.

Sanitarians, however, have pointed out very clearly how, in numberless instances, the drinking, or use of bad water has led to most grave results, and how a host of diseases are spread, and a low standard of health maintained by this cause.

Dr. Parkes, probably the most eminent authority on this subject says, (1):—

"As well observed by Mr. Simon in one of his philosophical reports, we cannot expect to find the effect of impure water always sudden and violent; its results are indeed often gradual, and may elude ordinary observation, yet be not the less real and appreciable by a close inquiry. In fact it is only when striking and violent effects are produced that public attention is arrested: the minor and more insidious, but not less certain, evils are borne with the indifference and apathy of custom. In some cases it is by no means improbable that the use of the impure water, which is supposed to be innocuous, has been really restricted or that experience has shown the necessity of purification in some way. This much seems to be certain that as precise investigations proceed, and, indeed in proportion to the care of the inquiry, and the accuracy of the examination, a continually increasing class of cases is found to be connected with the use of impure water, and it seems only reasonable to infer that a still more rigid inquiry will further prove the frequency and importance of this mode of origin of some diseases."

Dr. Parkes then proceeds to show by a most careful collection and comparison of facts that cholera, typhoid fever, malarious fevers, and possibly other zymotic diseases, are spread by impure water, whilst the same cause also ranks largely in the production of dyspepsia, diarrhoea, dysentery, skin diseases and boils, calouli, goitre, and diseases caused by a variety of entozoa.

In conclusion, after summarising the probabilities of localized outbreaks of such diseases as diarrhoea, dysentery, typhoid, and malarious fevers being due to impure water, he adds:—

"Although it is not at present possible to assign to every impurity in water its exact share in the production of disease, or to prove the precise influence on the public

health of water which is not extremely impure, it appears certain that the health of a community always improves when an abundant and pure water is given; and apart from this actual evidence we are entitled to conclude, from other considerations, that abundant and good water is a primary sanitary necessity." (2)

In considering this subject it is important to look to the future as well as to provide for immediate wants, because the growth of a district is liable to increase, and because the money expended on water works if borrowed cannot be repaid all at once, and if paid out of capital must take time to bring in its return of life-saving and health-giving results. The system adopted therefore, must be capable of expansion and of producing definite results in the future, such as to justify both from a health and money point of view the primary undertaking, and the solid scale upon which it is constructed.

No one can entirely evade the question. Those who never drink water alone use it either for cooking generally, for mixing with wine or spirits, or for washing edibles of various kinds and the vessels in which they are either cooked or eaten. It is hardly necessary to say that wine or spirits, unless mixed in very large proportions with water, can have no purifying effect upon it whatever. It may also be remarked that this form of total abstinence (i.e. from water) is hardly compatible with due attention to health.

In regard to wholesome water supply the foreigner who lives on the Bluff and possesses a good well, and secures it from pollution with reasonable care, may consider himself practically quite safe from disease coming through that channel, but the natives for the most part live under other and far different conditions.

The present water-supply of Yokohama consists of water from various wells distributed through the settlement, and on the Bluff, water from the Aqueduct from the Tamagawa river conveyed to so-called wells in the native town, besides water from miscellaneous sources such as ponds, brought by coolies from various quarters, and an unknown, but probably not large quantity of rain-water.

River-water, owing to the sources from which it is fed varies more than any other kind, being influenced by the nature of the surface on which it collects and the subsoil through which it flows, and subsequently on the character of the banks of the river, the rapidity of its flow, the amount of evaporation and the rainfall. (3) These varying influences as far as the Tamagawa river is concerned deserve every attention. The geological character of the soil, the amount of manure used on land forming the area of collection, or within the drainage area of the river, the character of the banks at all parts of its origin and course above the intake for Yokohama, must be thoroughly examined and kept under constant inspection and protection before the wholesomeness of the water can be ensured.

The next point in importance is the conveying of the water in a state of purity from the river to the consumer in Yokohama. This appears to me to be the main difficulty to be overcome in providing for a plentiful water-supply, and it cannot be surmounted without some considerable expenditure.

I have compared together in the following table water taken from the beginning of the

(2) Same, p. 60.

(3) Same, p. 19 et seq.

(1) Parkes. *Practical Hygiene*. 5th ed. p. 88.

aqueduct at Nobarito, where it first leaves the Tamagawa, water from Kujii, a point on the canal about 3 miles lower down, and water from a well in the Otamachi from which it is drawn for consumption by the Japanese in the neighbouring houses. The table is only qualitative in its statements, and has no pretensions to great scientific exactitude, but it shows clearly that the water as drawn for consumption in Yokohama is by no means in the same condition as when taken in from the Tamagawa. There is more mawkishness of taste, more decided and more persistent turbidity, and a distinct increase in first, carbonic acid or chalk, second, sulphuric acid or sulphate of lime, and third, chlorine, whilst traces of organic matter are perceptible in the Otamachi water, which are not found at Nobarito.

General Appearance.	After subsidence, for about 36 hours.	Reaction (Litmus paper).	Ammonia (Zinc Sulphate).	Organic Matter (Potassium Permanganate).	Solvent power on Lead (Plumbic Acetate).	Lead (Potassium Dichromate).	Carbonic Acid or Chalk (Ammonium Oxalate).	Sulphuric Acid or Calcium Sulphate (Barium Nitrate).	Iron (Potassium Ferricyanide).	Chlorine (Starch Nitrate).	Phosphates (Ammonia).
Water from Otamachi and Canal near Nobarito.	Clear.	Neutral.	Absent.	Absent.	Absent.	Absent.	Traces.	Absent.	Absent.	Present in small quantity.	Absent.
Water from Kujii.	Clear.	Neutral.	Absent.	Absent.	Absent.	Absent.	Traces.	Absent.	Absent.	Present in small quantity.	Absent.
Water from Otamachi.	Still turbid.	Neutral.	Absent.	Traces.	Absent.	Absent.	Present in moderate quantity.	Traces.	Absent.	Present in decided quantity.	Absent.
Water from a spring in Oota.	Clear.	Neutral.	Traces?	Absent.	Absent.	Absent.	Present in small quantity.	Present in small quantity.	Absent.	Present in moderate quantity.	Absent.

Wells, it must be remembered are only reservoirs, almost or completely removed from visible inspection; often indeed copious and pure but liable to pollution in a way that it may be very difficult if not impossible to trace or to avoid. The water which they contain is in great part drained away from the surrounding soil, and even if the well when made, hits upon a spring of pure water under-ground it is necessarily mixed with this drainage water more or less.

While on the one hand filtration takes place as the water slowly percolates through the soil, on the other it dissolves a variety of substances in the soil and its contained atmosphere. Neither of these actions secure it against contamination by organic matter.

*Well Water.*—"A well drains an extent of ground about it in the shape of an inverted cone. The area must depend on the soil; in very loose soils a well of 60 to 80 feet may perhaps drain an area of 200 feet in diameter on the surface but this must be considered as only a rude estimate."<sup>(4)</sup>

The clayey nature of the soil of the greater part of the Bluff however, would certainly not permit of drainage to any such extent as this. If an area of 10 feet round the well be kept perfectly free from soaking of any kind of drainage this will probably be sufficient, though a greater distance would be preferable. Wells are too frequently sunk for the sake of convenience close to the kitchen or other outhouses, and are liable to be contaminated by their drains; but a better plan would be to have them at some distance with a trough running from the raised mouth of the well to some convenient spot in or near the outhouses.

In the settlement, percolation of the soil by polluted water is constantly going on, and is probably one of the most potent of all the agencies at work in promoting the spread of disease. The soil is in some parts reeking with soaked-in filth, which must infallibly contaminate in time, every well within a certain distance, whilst it also passes into the atmosphere by evaporation, thus poisoning by two routes at once.

The following incident shows how a disease poison may traverse long distances underground and yet retain its disease-giving influence.

"There was an isolated farm house upon one side of a mountain ridge near to Lausen, in Switzerland, Lausen being on the other side of this ridge. The greater part of Lausen was supplied with water from a spring which issued from this ridge, the remaining part of the village being supplied from shallow wells: the stream passing from this farm house to the other side of the ridge became infected by the excrement of the farmer who came home suffering from typhoid fever. This stream disappears a little way below the house in some porous ground, and it had often been suspected that it communicated with the spring on the other side of this ridge, nearly a mile away, and when this outbreak of typhoid fever occurred this point was investigated. The medical officer of Basel very cleverly instituted the following experiments, which are exceedingly important in connection with the filtration of water, and the diffusion of typhoid poison generally. He first of all diverted this brook into a hole that had been formed previously just by the side of it; the water immediately disappeared, and within 2 or 3 hours afterwards the spring at Lausen

"was greatly increased in volume. Then he dissolved in the water several hundred weights of common salt, and sent it down with this water through the hole: the proportion of chlorine in the spring at the other side of the ridge after two or three hours, increased to two or three times what it had been before, showing undoubtedly that the water from one side of the ridge had made its way to the other: he then made this very important experiment: he threw into the water on the farm house side of this ridge several hundred weights of flour well mixed up with water, so as to diffuse it equally through the water as it went into the hole. The flour was entirely intercepted by filtration through this ridge, and not a trace of turbidity was perceptible in the spring at the other side, showing that there was very good filtration of the water. Nevertheless the poison had been transmitted through this ridge for between three quarters of a mile and a mile. That the poison really came through this spring, there can be no reasonable doubt, because none of the people who drank water from the shallow waters in Lausen were affected by the fever: whilst only one or two houses escaped among all those who got their water supply from the spring. This case shows that one ought not to depend upon filtration for security."<sup>(5)</sup>

This lateral or slanting drainage has actually been remarked in Yokohama when one resident on the Bluff finds that his well yields a copious supply until a neighbour digs another well deeper than his, whereupon the first resident finds that his supply diminishes, and he in turn digs more deeply. Should the higher well in such a case become polluted it is possible, nay highly probable, that the lower one must share in the pollution. In the settlement probably this drainage is constantly going on owing to the nature of the soil which necessitates shallow wells.

Although very strong opinions have been expressed as to the impurity of rain water, it would appear that the chief objections have been made against that collected in towns, and although there is some discrepancy of opinion on the subject yet the balance of it is decidedly in favour of the purity and drinkable quality of that collected in country districts if carefully stored, and "it has been suggested that in outbreaks of cholera anywhere, the rain water is less likely to become contaminated with sewage matters than wells or springs, into which organic matters often find their way in an unaccountable manner."<sup>(6)</sup>

Any impurity in the quality of rain-water, can, however, be considerably, if not entirely obviated by those plans which arrange for a rejection of the first portions collected, as in a heavy fall of rain the washing of the atmosphere and consequent impregnation of the water with its impurities, is effected in a very short time. This could be easily effected by some automatic apparatus, by which the filling of a small cistern by the first impure portions of rain-water would lift a piston or ball which might be made to open the passage in to the tank. The uncertainty of supply of rainwater is of course another drawback which cannot be so easily compensated for, as it demands large storage-room.

There are other possible sources of supply such as from springs found in the hills round

(5) Report from the Select Committee on the Public Health Act (1875) Amendment Bill. Evidence of Dr. Frankland. P. 41, 1878.

(6) Parkes, *Practical Hygiene*, p. 19.

(4) *Parkes Hygiene*, p. 27.

Yokohama or by boring artesian wells. The composition of water from one of these springs at Oota is referred to in the foregoing table, but the yield is very small, and although such springs may supply very limited districts with pure water they can hardly be worthy of consideration as a supply for Yokohama on a large scale. In times of cholera they may be useful when, under the pressure of an epidemic scare, people may be willing to send some distance for pure water. The method of obtaining water by boring artesian wells, may for the present be summarily dismissed, until reasons of a geological nature can be clearly adduced to justify it. (?)

There is some risk attendant on every form of water supply. In the case of wells the danger is of a nature which it is specially difficult to guard against because the well is deep in the ground and hidden, and the character of the soil cannot be accurately ascertained. At the same time it is not likely to occur if the surroundings of the well are kept pure. In the case of rainwater, all possible pollution may be guarded against in country districts, provided the first portions are rejected, but there is the drawback of the uncertainty of the supply, necessitating large storage, which, in its turn, produces a liability to contamination during storage.

In the case of water drawn from a river, though the water is not so pure as rain-water it is, or should be under constant inspection from first to last, and if a properly constructed brick or stone aqueduct and iron pipes be used to convey it to the consumer and the area from which it is collected be sufficiently guarded against pollution, there is no practical reason against its being provided in abundance all over Yokohama. It only becomes a question of time and expense. People must have pure drinking water and they have to buy it as it is. It is a mere question of calculation as to the quantity required, and the cost of material and labour to bring it within everybody's reach.

In the meantime, as the construction of an aqueduct is from a pecuniary point of view an undertaking of some magnitude it would be well to consider the other sources now available for the public, and the best means of securing to them the greatest purity possible. They are practically all wells variously situated. The actual composition of their waters is not alone of chief importance, their site and conditions of possible pollution are equally so. I would suggest that a commission or board of some kind containing amongst its members duly qualified medical men, both foreign and Japanese, should be appointed by the Japanese government not merely to report on the wells of the settlement, a matter which has already been done to a considerable extent, but to enforce rules as to the construction and use of public wells such as would ensure the purity of their water at all times. This would provide for the emergency possibly not very far distant

(7) "It would appear certain that immense "subterranean reservoirs of water exist in the "new red sandstone, the chalk, the upper and "lower greensand, and other porous geological "strata, which only require deep artesian borings "to reach them.

"Of all the natural waters, those from deep "subterranean sources are the purest; they are "well aerated, perfectly free from human contamination, and destitute of life.

"But in recommending the sinking of an artesian well, which is a work of considerable magnitude and cost, the ground must be very carefully "studied, and the geology of the district accurately known." *Dict. of Hygiene and Public Health* by A. Wynter Blyth and Prof. Tardieu, p. 645.

when, owing to contamination of the open part of the present Aqueduct from various extraneous impurities, or of the latter part of its stream from rotting or other leak producing action on the wooden underground channels in which it now flows, that source of supply shall have become unworthy of the confidence it now enjoys.

Such recommendation would be a most fitting inauguration of a system of medical inspection much needed by the Japanese in all their large towns, and of no small importance to their foreign residents.

As for the scheme of a new aqueduct constructed of brick or stone, if it is a question of money required alone, it would be very easily solved if the Japanese government would only allow those richer than themselves to do it, provided that a proper engineer's survey showed it to be feasible, at a reasonable cost, and that the returns in the form of a water-rate would ultimately repay the first cost with its interest.

W. T. BUCKLE.

—Sept. 3.

### THE "NICHU NICHU SHINBUN" AND "T. W."

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* concludes its comments on the letter of "T.W." thus:—

From what has been now said "T.W." will see the inexpediency of further increasing taxation on the farmers in their present circumstances, and appreciate the reasons for not increasing rental on building lands of cities also. Now we will examine his propositions for staying the depreciation of currency. He says:—Now there are only two or three ways by which a government can effectively stimulate the industry of the people. One is to provide facilities for transportation of products to market. Another is to bestow honours and distinctions on those who excel in industry. A third is to apply the spur of taxation. This last is the most efficient of all. If, for example, the owners of the land now lying uncultivated all over Japan were compelled to pay taxes on those lands under penalty of having them sold to others, do you suppose they would let them lie uncultivated as at present? We answer that this last project will force the farmers to again lead a life of pain and suffering. Of all policies the most objectionable and dangerous is that which has a reactionary tendency upon the people; for instance, as if statesmen, intending to develop a spirit of freedom and self-government among the people, should commence by oppressing them, in the hope that the people, unable to bear the heavy burden, would rise up against the government and wrest their freedom from them at last; such a measure is fearful in its consequences. Certainly so; because, if the people are goaded to opposition against the government, unmeasurable calamities will be inflicted upon the whole people. Now the case of the farmers is the same under the proposition that the government should increase taxes hoping to stimulate industry.

This is one reason why we do not agree with "T.W." on this point, and reject his proposition as impracticable for the present.

7.—With regard to the other two measures, that is, improved facilities for transportation of products to markets, and bestowing honours and distinctions on those who excel in industry, we agree with "T.W." Indeed, to provide facilities for transportation is a

matter of the first necessity at present, but owing to the mountain chains of our country, we cannot hope to speedily construct railroads, and even ordinary roads will require great sums of money and the work of some years. But fortunately our country is surrounded by sea, and its coasts afford good harbours to mariners, so that we have only to prepare good roads from producing districts to harbours, extending only fifty or sixty *ri*, which is not so great a work; and if this be done and all transportation is generally made by sea, there will be no difficulty in transporting domestic products. But if all the carrying trade is to be monopolized by a great and powerful company, or the influence of such a company is sufficient to check a newly established coastwise trade, these things will be great obstacles to the promotion of the interests of the sea carrying trade at large. Therefore, it is necessary for the government at present to deeply consider the wisdom of allowing all ships, whether steamers or sailing vessels, to engage freely in trade under the same impartial protection, but never to allow one to oppress or prevent the other's trade.

In connection with honours and distinctions to be bestowed upon those who excel in industry, we think the industrial and competitive exhibitions that encourage or bestow honour on those who deserve them, will prove to be of great benefit to the people.

8.—"T.W." agrees with us that to increase the productiveness of labour, an increase of capital is necessary; but he says, further, that now, as the Okurasho has abandoned its policy to lend capital to those who undertake certain industries, capital for such private business must be sought elsewhere, but where is it to be obtained? We think that this is one important point on which he demands explanation, and we answer thus:—Let foreign capital be introduced. The introduction of foreign capital we advocated a few years ago, but at that time all the press, with the exception of the *Chingai Bukka Shimpō*, disagreed with us. The public and officials also opposed our views, but we have never wavered in our opinion; on the contrary we have become more strongly convinced of its soundness, so that we are now induced to think even those who opposed it may now coincide. So far, we have advocated the introduction of foreign capital; but there is one great impediment that prevents it from being carried out, and if this impediment is not removed, no foreigner can confidently introduce capital into this country, nor can Japanese confidently accept it. What is this impediment? It is extra-territoriality. We do not intend here to argue about extra-territoriality, because it may create confusion; and we say simply that great difficulties will arise from the introduction of foreign capital, unless foreigners are subjected to our civil law, even if they are not made amenable to the law both civil and criminal by treaty revision. "T.W." will see that this is so, and therefore no words are required to explain the position.

In point of fact, it is not unreasonable to say that foreigners in this country at present enjoy the highest pitch of personal liberty, so that they are more free in this country than in their own. But for advantage of trade, they are, in many cases, restricted by extra-territoriality; for instance; they can not trade in the interior, possess immovable property, become shareholders of companies, hold national bonds, and so forth.

Are these disqualifications not caused by extra-territoriality? Therefore we believe

that if the present treaty is so revised as to subject foreigners to Japanese civil law at least, foreign capital can be introduced, and if this is once done, it will be no longer difficult to develop our production and make our commerce extensive.

In order to make these arguments clear to our readers, we here sum them up.

(1).—The Japanese government should abandon the policy of interference with private business, and confine their power within its proper limit, strictly adhering to economy; and if this is observed, though prices still rise owing to the depreciation of currency, and consequently expenditure increases, yet they will be able to keep their finances in good order by simplifying their business and saving useless expenditure.

(2).—The finances thus kept in good order, there will be no necessity for increasing taxes on land, a measure which tends to prevent the improvement of the people.

(3).—When treaty revision is completed the Japanese government should increase import duties in such degree that no injury is done to our commerce, and apply the amount of specie thus realised to the reserve fund for reducing currency, and if 10,000,000 yen are fortunately obtained from customs duties every year, as we estimate, there will be a reserve fund of 100,000,000 yen after ten years, and the financial difficulty will be completely removed.

(4).—The Japanese government should be attentive first of all, to providing facilities for the transportation of commodities; but not to continue the partial policy of giving special privileges to certain individuals.

(5).—Foreign capital can be introduced into our country and utilized as capital for some undertakings after treaty revision is settled, by which extra-territoriality is abolished, and foreigners are held amenable to our law, in civil cases at least.

These are our comments upon the letter of "T.W." made for the purpose of placing our opinions before him for his judgment. Indeed, he understands the condition of our people very well, and his arguments are very applicable to this country.

He is requested to express his opinion freely on the perusal of this article.—Aug. 27

## Reports.

### SWIMMING MATCHES.

THE Aquatic meeting on Saturday afternoon was the most successful one of the season, the competition being really very fair, the average number of starters for all the events being six or seven to the usual two to three of former meetings. Although every endeavour was made by the more excitable portion of the members who were to compete, aided by others who were not, to enable the captain and the members of the committee to lose their heads by countless repeated and superfluous questions about the races, these gentlemen succeeded in getting the programme through without a hitch and without wearying the spectators by too long intervals between the events, and although many were disappointed at not seeing the calithumpians, all were on the whole satisfied. It is to be hoped the committee will pay some attention to the suggestions put forward by our correspondent on the 2nd inst., and provide some means for measuring the course for the next meeting. In the 150

yards race, seventh event on our published programme, and sixth in the order taken, the handicap of some thirty seconds allowed to the eventual winner was considered by all to be considerably too much, more especially as the distance was far from correctly measured, but this mistake, if such it were, can be ascribed to the fact that the committee were almost totally unacquainted with the swimming power of the fortunate competitor.

The running dive from spring board, for which Messrs. Boyes, A. H. Dare, G. Dare, S. Cope, Boag, Hamilton, Cottell, Bavier and Oppenheimer entered, was won by Mr. Boyes who gave the others no chance, coming up each dive some distance ahead of Mr. A. Dare who took the second place. Mr. Cope seemed to have a good chance from the first dive, but missing the second one, retired. The second event was the 100 yards race, winners of any swimming match excluded. Three entries or no race. Only the minimum number of three came forward. These were Messrs. Samuels, F. W. Playfair and Bavier. The latter gave in soon after the start, and the second gentleman followed suit, leaving the field clear for Mr. Samuels, who won in 3 m. 10 sec. In the third event, that of diving for objects, the prize was closely contended for by Messrs. Oppenheimer and Scidmore; in the first of the three dives, the former brought up ten saké cups out of a possible forty-five, in the second nine, in the third twelve; and the latter in the first dive five, second eleven, and third thirteen, which latter was the highest scored. Mr. G. Dare brought up in all thirteen, and Mr. Bavier three. Diving through a hoop was the next issue, and after some difficulty the hoops were got into a proper position, the competitors diving from the roof of the barge. Entries: Messrs. Cope, Scidmore, G. Dare, Boag, Cottell, Hamilton, Wood, Bavier and Oppenheimer. Only the two first mentioned went through the hoops without touching, and the result was a tie between them. Mr. Cope taking a splendid dive went clear through two hoops, and won a most deserved prize. For the blindfold race the following competed: Messrs. Cope, Oppenheimer, G. Dare, Cottell, Wood, A. Dare, and Scott. This race was won by Mr. Cope, followed by Mr. Oppenheimer, both going straight for the barge. The next and sixth race was the 150 yards handicap. Several who started in this race gave up almost immediately, so that we are unable to give an entirely complete list, but the following are those who kept up to the barge; Messrs. Playfair, Samuels, Bing, Melhuish, Dare and Boyes. The handicap given to Mr. Playfair was thirty five seconds and although Mr. Samuels, 5 sec. handicap, got pretty well up he was unable to make the distance less than eight or ten yards by which the former won. Time 4 m. 20 sec. The handicap, as we remarked before, was somewhat too much, but we doubt whether the result would have been the same had Mr. Samuels been fresh; however the winner deserved his success if it was only for the pluck he showed in keeping up his efforts to the finish. The second last event was the steeple chase. Messrs. A. Dare, S. Cope, Cottell, G. Dare, Vivanti and some other gentlemen started although only four or five completed the course. As is usual in these races, fortune smiled alternately on one and another of the competitors; the lead was alternately taken by Messrs. Dare, Cope and Cottell and it was only after the last boat had been passed that it could be seen who were likely to come in

first. Mr. Dare was some yards ahead of Mr. Cope who in his turn was some distance ahead of Mr. Cottell and this order was kept up to the goal. It was nearly dark when the 50 yards race—in dress,—was started, only Messrs. Cope and Hamilton contesting. To the half way boat, both kept together but there Mr. Cope got ahead rapidly, winning easily. Although the distance was comparatively short the competitors seemed thoroughly tired out with their exertions. The committee finding it was too late postponed the calithumpians, so this race closed the meeting.

### THE IMPORTS OF JAPAN.

(We take the following interesting paper by Consul-General Van Buren from the Official Report on the Commercial Relations of the United States for the past year.)

I have the honor to submit a brief tabulated statement showing the chief articles imported into Japan from the United States and several of the nationalities of Europe and Asia in the year ending June 30, 1880. The items, including only those amounting in value to \$5,000 or upwards, are taken from the returns of the customs department, which cannot be always relied upon as strictly correct. The difficulty of procuring strictly reliable statistical information upon this or kindred subjects in Japan I have frequently before referred to. I trust, however, that the figures presented will be found sufficiently approximate to the actual importations to afford a fair estimate of the proportions brought from the different countries.

#### Imports from the United States.

	Value.
Butter ... ..	\$36,031.28
Canvas and cotton duck... ..	20,231.62
Clocks ... ..	219,004.24
Cordage ... ..	11,846.63
Cotton and Chintzes, printed..	16,706.38
Gum ware ... ..	12,752.00
Hoofs ... ..	10,292.67
Kerosene ... ..	1,803,558.66
Lamps and fittings... ..	63,778.08
Leather ... ..	57,809.12
Machinery ... ..	20,686.30
Medicines ... ..	28,947.61
Provisions ... ..	70,133.52
Quicksilver ... ..	16,075.48
Rifles ... ..	125,708.30
Stationery ... ..	27,072.40
Tobacco, including cigars and cigarettes ... ..	11,105.36
Watches ... ..	23,021.90

(Here follow the items for Great Britain, France, Germany, China, East Indies and Siam, Belgium, Holland, Italy, Denmark, Austria, Spain, and Sweden and Norway.)

The largest importations from the United States, it will be seen, are:—

	Value.
Kerosene oil ... ..	\$1,803,558.66
Clocks ... ..	219,004.24
Rifles ... ..	125,708.30

Of lamps and fittings we furnish \$63,778.08 against \$16,673.96 from Germany, \$12,543.92 from Great Britain, and \$20,508.12 from Belgium.

From Great Britain the largest imports are cotton and woolen goods and machinery, a trade of considerable value. France sends mousseline de laine, silk and cotton goods, wines and brandies, leather, and medicines. Germany, mousseline de laine, silk and cotton



goods, and machinery. China, sugar, drugs, leather, paper, raw cotton, and mats, and the East Indies and Siam, cotton yarn and cordage.

At the present prices of production of cotton yarn in the United States, as I have very frequently had occasion to remark, I do not think it possible for us to compete with Great Britain, and so, too, with most of our cotton manufactures. With regard to the heavy sizing practiced by the English manufacturers of their white cotton goods for the eastern markets, I am told that such goods are appreciated by the people of China and Japan for use as linings or inside fillings for winter garments. They claim that the sizing does not injure the goods while adding greatly to their weight and warmth. I have heretofore observed that it was doubtful if, in the long run, it would pay our manufacturers to cheapen the quality of their goods in order to afford them at a lower price; but may it not be worth their while to inquire into the subject in the light I have now presented it, so as to determine if they should not enter into competition with England for this growing and valuable trade? Goods made especially for this market of lighter weight and prepared in the manner desired by the people could be sold, and the question whether it should be done is important enough to merit the most serious consideration.

In machinery, also, and in the cheaper woolen goods, as well as in groceries, provisions, butter, leather, lamps and fittings, gumware, &c., I should suppose that our country could and should secure a much larger portion of the trade.

THOS. B. VAN BUREN,  
*Consul-General.*

UNITED STATES CONSULATE-GENERAL,  
Kanagawa, February 4th, 1881.

### A PUBLIC MEETING IN TOKIO.

ON the 25th. of August a public meeting was convened at the Shintomiza Theatre, Kiobashi-ku, Tokio. This meeting had been extensively advertised, and it was understood that Mr. Fukuchi would deliver his opinions on the transfer of the Kaitakushi properties to the Kwansei Boyeki Shokwai; the demand for tickets of admission was consequently far in excess of the accommodation afforded by the theatre. The appointed hour was 4 p.m., but so early as 11 a.m. the approaches to the theatre were thronged, and at 2 p.m. above two thousand persons were assembled. The pressure on the opening of the doors was considerable, but in a short time order was restored among fully three thousand anticipative auditors, forming in every respect a fairly representative gathering of the middle class.

The enthusiasm which brought so large a number of persons together is strong evidence of a growing determination to criticise the acts of the government; and also of disapproval of the Kaitakushi affair. We are informed that a feeling of indignation prevails throughout the entire country with regard to this last matter, and certainly the opinions expressed by some of the speakers at this meeting are marked by a boldness which, three years ago, would have been looked upon as pure recklessness and defiance. The list of subjects treated by different speakers was varied; and, as we have been favoured with some excellent notes made by a gentleman present at the

meeting, we will give a close translation of them for the benefit of those who, like the *Japan Mail* and its congeners, hold that the only competent persons in Japan, are the twelve ministers forming the cabinet.

The first speaker was Mr. Takanashi who selected a peculiar theme entitled: "The corrupt statesmen of the United States." He began by describing the reasons which induced him to believe that corruption prevailed to a vast extent in the United States, and had even entered the cabinet. He then compared the cabinet ministers of Japan to those of the United States and adroitly connected the subject with the Kaitakushi affair. He said:—

We have before us the fact that when Mr. Garfield was elected to the presidency, innumerable applications were made to him for office under all sorts of pretexts, such as, for example, they had educated the President; they had befriended him; and they had voted and worked for him: these are strong evidences of corruption, and no similar cases exist in France or England. Why does this infamous practice prevail in the United States? There are two causes for it:—1. The geographical position of their country renders the people safe from foreign war. 2. The entire governing power is monopolized by the party which gained the ascendancy during the civil war. This party is so strong and confident, that it seems indifferent to its deviations from righteousness. I am induced to think that these two conditions exist in Japan and similarly affect our government. Our country is by geographical situation removed from external influences, and the political changes of Europe have little effect on us. Russia and China have caused us some anxiety; yet there has been no real fear of war ensuing. Again, the members of our government are exclusively those belonging to the classes who destroyed the Bakufu, and monopolized the supreme government. These ministers have no fear of foreign war, feel securely confident of their position, neglect their duties, favour their friends, and do everything they wish to do. I do not venture to assert that this is actually the case with all the members of our government, but they may take advantage of their position as is done in the United States, an impression strengthened by the rumour of the conveyance of the Kaitakushi property, a rumour which causes the utmost anxiety, and demands our earnest endeavours to prevent the utter demoralization of the empire.

Mr. Takanashi concluded his speech amid loud applause. He was succeeded by Mr. Masuda, whose text was, "Non-government." In a long speech Mr. Masuda pointed out the necessity of good government for a nation. When the ministers neglect the proper discharge of their duties, act with partiality, bestow presents upon their friends, and do other things not strictly within the scope of their authority, they become a useless body, and the nation relapses into "non-government," a situation the speaker hoped he should not live to see.

Mr. Koyedzuka, made an address which he styled "Sympathy with the people of Hokkaido," of which the following is an epitome.

Fellow countrymen! we mourn for the people of the Hokkaido over whom a grievous calamity is impending. This calamity is the sale of the Kaitakushi property to the Kwansei Boyeki Shokwai. The actions of the cabinet are secret, and are as securely hidden as though surrounded by high walls which we cannot pass over, and the truth of this

particular transaction is not known to us, except from newspaper reports which, agreeing in substance and never having been contradicted, I assume to be substantially true. My anxiety is very great, and I feel much sympathy with those people who have emigrated to Yezo with the object of making money, as the English have done by emigrating to lands many thousands of miles distant. Owing to the hard labour of the immigrants, production has been increased though much retarded by vexatious restrictions imposed by the Kaitakushi. Happily, however, the Kaitakushi was this year to be abolished, and the people were congratulating themselves that they would be saved from its further interference; but now what a fate awaits them! The Kwansei Boyeki Shokwai is to be substituted for the Kaitakushi!! I firmly believe that from the day the company takes possession of the island the people will waste away to skeletons, their very flesh being devoured by the Boyeki Shokwai.

According to recent estimates produce worth 3,000,000 yen has been exported from and goods of the value of 5,000,000 yen have been imported into the island in the year; but if the whole import and export trade is to be confined to a few individuals governed entirely by self-interest, prices will be fixed to suit themselves, and misery and suffering will be the lot of the mere people. The Americans, it is known, raised a marble monument to the honour of the great leader who obtained for them the inestimable blessings of freedom and independence; but we of Japan, desirous to honour Mr. Kuroda, must look around for something more precious than marble; a pillar of diamonds, of purest water would be all too little to express the admiration we have for our benefactor. The force of reasoning indicates that Mr. Kuroda should be endowed with feelings of kind sympathy for the people he has governed, be anxious to promote their interests, and to leave some lasting benefit associated with his memory when he withdraws from the island. What is this lasting benefit he intends to leave behind him? What is it, I ask again? The Kwansei Boyeki Shokwai! Who are benefited by this company? Mr. Kuroda's friends, but not the people. We therefore sympathize with the people as they would do with us under like circumstances. We never know the moment when our situation may not be the same as that in which the Hokkaido people are placed. If such a transaction can pass in one part of Japan why not in another?

Mr. Koyedzuka concluded his spirited address amidst loud applause, Mr. Numama being the next speaker on the question "Is there a want of ability among the unofficial classes of Japan?" He said:—

I am unable to see in government officials the ablest and wisest persons in this nation; or that outside of official circles inferiority prevails; on the contrary, experience shows public opinion to be sounder in principle and more accurate in judgment than that which emanates from the official mind. Instances of this are numerous. The government attributed depreciation of currency to the adverse balance of trade. This theory the public rejected, and ascribed depreciation to its true cause, over-issue. The government thought it necessary to promote and protect industry and commerce by interference therewith; but the press denounced their acts. The government attempted to carry out a scheme to restore the value of their paper by speculations on the market with treasury specie. This was exposed and mercilessly

criticised in public lectures and by other means. Where are all these policies now? Abandoned by the government in deference to the superior opinion of the public, sure evidence that this government were in error and the public in the right. These things alone show it is a gross mistake to assume the inferiority of the people, and that officials are the only able men in Japan.

This address was also well received by an audience grown excited and enthusiastic; and expectation was at its height when Mr. Fukuchi rose to address the assembly. Mr. Fukuchi is a shizoku of good family from the south, Nagasaki being his town. He is, as many of our readers know, the proprietor and chief editor of the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun*, supposed to be the official organ of the government; and he is vice-president of the Tokio Chamber of Commerce. He has been a prominent man for some years, and his position, social, political, and commercial, gives him a standing among his countrymen of a high character.

It was generally known that Mr. Fukuchi would deal with the Kaitakushi job, and the large audience was not disappointed for he commenced, *in medium res*, a speech of which the following is an abridgment preserving substantially the full sense of the original.

He who has a settled belief in any one thing, is apt to disbelieve every thing which appears opposed to his own particular view. This is a general rule. In the spring of 1877 the Satsuma rebellion broke out, and Saigo Takamori was reputed to be the leader. I and many others refused to believe the story, because, strongly impressed with the loyalty and righteousness of Saigo, we deemed him incapable of becoming the chief of an insurrection. Eventually the rumour proved true, and we were in the wrong. A similar occurrence has recently taken place. I refer to the sale of the Kaitakushi property. When first informed of the transaction, I regarded it as impossible of execution under the present government. Now, however, I find the rumour to be true, my misapprehension in this matter being equally great as my disbelief in the disloyalty of Saigo. This accounts for my long silence.

Of the official relations between the Kaitakushi and the Kwansei Boyeki Shokwai I know nothing; if I did I should not willingly disclose the secret. Therefore I will here confine myself to matters within the public knowledge. In the spring of this year a company called the Kwansei Boyeki Shokwai was established in Osaka with the object of absorbing the whole trade of the Hokkaido. Its capital was said to be 1,000,000 yen, out of which 500,000 was said to be raised in Osaka but in fact only ten, or at the utmost twenty, per cent. was subscribed, and we know nothing of addition. Nevertheless the chief promoter of this company being endowed with more than ordinary skill, and blest with a good friend in the cabinet, secured the success of his undertaking. While the public were in complete darkness respecting the negotiations that were being carried on, the curtain was raised, and the plot of the play was revealed to the astonished spectators. The absolute purchase of the whole of the properties of the Kaitakushi for a sum of yen 300,000, payable by instalments extending over thirty years, without interest, had been achieved by the masterly policy of the chief of the Boyeki Shokwai. These properties include the buildings of the branch offices in Tokio, all the factories, establishments, steamers, ships, godowns, &c. Are they

not cheap? It is said the Kaitakushi spent yen 10,000,000 during the ten years subsequent to 1871.\* These factories and buildings are stated to have cost between two and three million of yen. Naturally all government undertakings are more costly than those in the hands of private persons, and the real cost may be somewhat less; but this is no reason, why they should be sold at a price which reduces the sale to the level of a gift.

It will be well to examine into the assertion that the Kwansei Boyeki Shokwai could not profitably engage in this business if it had paid any greater sum than yen 300,000 on less easy terms. According to the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun*, the commission on sale of the produce delivered to the Kaitakushi by the people in payment of taxes (all taxes in the Hokkaido being paid in kind) is settled at 6 per cent. on the gross value: thirty thousand yen more are obtained as interest on advances to fishermen; to these sums must be added the proceeds of the factories, and fully one hundred and fifty thousand yen will be 'squeezed' by the company. In addition the Sapporo coal mine has been disposed of to five persons, Godai Tomotsu being one of them, the money requisite to put the mine into good working order being lent them by the government at three per cent. annual interest. The railway in Yezo will, it is also confidently averred, eventually fall into their hands, the object of its construction being the transport of coal from the alienated mine. Nothing can be more iniquitous than such transactions! That the government should be willing to pay six to eight per cent. on the national bonds, applying for this purpose the taxes levied on the hard working people, at the same time as they are making loans to favoured persons for three per cent. interest only, is unintelligible. Can any apology be found for this action? I fear not. Now what have the defenders of this transaction to say in this matter? That these undertakings in the Hokkaido must be kept up and that inexperienced persons taking them in hand would be ruined. The arrangement with the government is therefore justifiable if for no other purpose than to keep the works in their present condition. This argument may be urged by the head of the Kaitakushi in his zeal for the future of his own department; but the cabinet, having the interests of the country at heart, should not listen to it. I do not hold the Kaitakushi but the cabinet primarily responsible in this matter, and we can be no longer content to live under absolute government. The time is ripe for the establishment of a national representative assembly. Let us do all in our power to achieve this great object.

Mr. Fukuchi then entered upon the financial situation, but finding the hour had grown late he deferred his remarks upon this subject to another occasion, and retired amid loud cheers. Throughout his address, Mr. Fukuchi was listened to with great attention, frequent rounds of deafening applause testifying the approval of a highly respectable audience.

Two police sergeants and one constable were present, but made no movement of interference; indeed the bearing of the auditors, and the earnestness of the applause, were warnings, not to be disregarded, that the meeting was not to be trifled with.

\* The 'arithmetical' allusion will be very distasteful to our contemporary of the *Mail*. Masses of indigestible figures are at all times disagreeable, and the only justification for their introduction is their accuracy. If Mr. Fukuchi had said 20,000,000 he would have been nearer the truth.—Ed. J. G.]

## Correspondence.

### A VALUABLE NATIVE INDUSTRY.

To the editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

DEAR SIR:—Mr. Müller's letter is an interesting contribution to the literature of the dog question. From one point of view it shows us the moral depths to which a Japanese butcher can descend, although his British compeer, in the sausage line, is not quite an angel. Viewed in another aspect, it shows how evenhanded justice overtakes the young men of Kobe. Having sinned against nature's laws by eating calf, they are led into the deeper cannibalism of devouring pu —, but, I forbear to pursue the saddening theme.

My main object in addressing you, sir, as the pioneer in all commercial movements inaugurated in this country, is to call your attention to the important question which Mr. Müller's letter incidentally touches; a question affecting the food supplies of the teeming populations of the East. I allude to the unsuspected source of wealth neglected and uncared for in our midst, and becoming, through its very redundancy, a nuisance to us.

We have an immense number of dogs here, which the Japanese rarely utilise for food, and which are consequently valueless; and yet at a few days' distance from our shores lies the vast empire of John Chinaman, and all along the lines of traffic traversed by our ocean steamers are colonies from his enterprising family, ready and eager to absorb any quantity of such delicacies. The export of such an article might develop a new source of revenue for this country, and in a short time bring about that so devoutly desired consummation, the restoration of the balance of trade in favour of Japan.

Such an enterprise as would turn this article to account would demand and deserve careful organisation and rigid system. I would suggest, that our Japanese friends form a company, (of course under government protection) to be styled the *Inu Boyeki Shokwai*, or some other suitable designation, and that, as this climate would render the exportation of the meat in an uncured state a rather risky operation, a complete boiling and canning apparatus be manufactured at Yokosuka, thus giving encouragement to the national industries. As in other enterprises in this country a little European aid would be desirable at first, and as the supply of dogs would require keeping up, a breeding establishment would be required at which any dozen of our young dog fanciers here would find congenial occupation in acting gratuitously as a committee of management, and they could be gratified with a dog show and prizes occasionally.

To preserve the purity of the articles manufactured, all dogs would require supervision incompatible with private management, and consequently the keeping of dogs on private compounds in towns would be forbidden. The collection of stray animals in the country districts could be effected by a patrol of the company's officers recruited from the night hawkers who at present disturb us. They could be clad in suitable uniform, including a dogskin cap. Small dogs could, when seized, be readily asphyxiated and rendered easily portable for transmission from a distance by insertion for a few moments in the empty vessels of that "common object of the

country" (and of our Bluff promenades, the man with the buckets.)

The canine abattoir, situated at a convenient distance from the settlement, say between the Kanagawa prison and the skirt of the Bluff, should be open for public inspection and a visiting committee, composed of those *pater-familias* whose slumbers are at present disturbed by the dogs, would afford the necessary guarantees for the absence of cruelty in the mode of slaughtering. I would further suggest that the hour of slaughtering be fixed at 12 noon, and that it be rendered a penal offence to fire salutes or beat temple drums except at that hour, when such noises might do some good by drowning the cries of the dying dogs.

An interesting field would be open to the company in the preparation of appetising delicacies, and they need not despair of even captivating the fastidious foreigner. Could a German of usual Teutonic appetite resist a well got up tin of "Yokohama Hundwurst" if offered to him in some country hotel (save the mark) where naught else except the inevitable rice and daikon are obtainable?

Potted Puppy—Roast Retriever—Corned Collie—might appeal to the general public, and the fraternity of England, France and Japan might be symbolised and cemented by tinned *Boule-dogues aux Daikons conserves*.

Doubtless a valuable combination of various essences with *saké*—a kind of "Extract of Bark"—might be produced.

The various surplus products could be utilised in many ways which would suggest themselves to the ingenious native mind. The bones could be utilised for fans and umbrella fittings; the blood might form the base of a new kind of lacquer, and the skins could be manufactured into hats, gloves, fur-lined cloaks, &c., all made up on the company's premises and consigned direct to their agents abroad, thus avoiding the profits of the interloping foreigner.

I think, sir, you will see in the foregoing sketch, the germs of a truly practical solution of the dog question by which every member of the community would find his tastes appropriately consulted. The Japanese would found a new industry and keep it to themselves; the dog-fanciers would be gratified by kennels of a size beyond their wildest dreams; the admirals would have their salutes; the priests enjoy their drum beating, and quiet-loving people would sleep in peace, except when the fire-bell or the earthquake roused them—one cannot, you know, have quite everything as one likes it. Counting upon your advocacy of the idea suggested, and apologising for trespassing so largely on your space.

I am, dear sir,

Yours faithfully,

PACE.

KEROSINE OIL.

To the editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

SIR:—Doctor Geerts has lately so abundantly proved that kerosine oil, at the existing American and British standard, is a dangerous article, that one would naturally expect to find in the legislation of Java some recognition of this overwhelming chemical testimony, of which one can hardly suppose the Dutch government to be quite ignorant.

It appears, however, that up to the present time, the authorities there have made no objection to the use of kerosine oil at 110°,

or even at 100°. For statistics show that during the years 1879 and 1880 there were shipped to Java, from America, no less than 3,021,000 cases of this low test oil, or nearly 1,000,000 cases more than were shipped to Japan during the same period. In the same two years there were also shipped to British India about 2,850,000 cases of similar oil.

Unless the Japanese government and Dr. Geerts are exercising themselves over a mare's nest, the authorities in Java and India must be so recklessly negligent of their duty, and so indifferent to the interests of the vast populations under their care, that something ought to be done to bring them to a proper sense of their responsibilities. If the scientists of Japan are correct, a frightful catastrophe is impending over these misguided countries which humanity is called upon to avert, if possible. It would be positively cruel in the Japanese, after having so clearly ascertained the dreadful danger of burning kerosine oil testing under 120°, to bury their discovery in a local regulation, and leave their less enlightened neighbours to the awful consequences of continuing to burn oil of 110° only. A special embassy (in which Dr. Geerts might be advantageously included) ought at once to be despatched to the Javan and Indian governments to call their attention to this matter. By this means Japan would discharge an obvious duty to her neighbours, and at the same time display her own superior civilization and enlightenment.

I trust this singular opportunity for a noble action will not be neglected, and that the suggested embassy will soon be *en route*. Even if both the Hollanders and the Englishmen should stupidly refuse to change their laws about kerosine oil, the embassy would attest the scientific attainments and philanthropic beneficence of Japan and give the world a glorious example of disinterestedness.

But the ambassadors should be positively forbidden to recommend Japanese matches as a means of lighting kerosine lamps. For any indiscretion on that point might divert attention from the important subject of the extra 10 degrees on oil.

Yours respectfully,

PETROLEUM.

August 31st., 1881.

To the editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

DEAR SIR:—Your correspondent "Petroleum" seems to be under the impression that I have something to do with or have been asked for advice in regard to the kerosine regulations, lately published by the Japanese government, for it is difficult to understand the object of his letter unless it be accepted as truth that I am in some degree responsible for those regulations.

I am sorry that I cannot leave to Mr. Petroleum the pleasure he must have enjoyed in putting me on a pedestal as the mover or promoter of the kerosine regulations. Your correspondent has shot his arrows in an entirely wrong direction, and towards a person who knew nothing of the regulations until they were published in the newspapers. If, therefore, your correspondent, who is no doubt a good sportsman, goes again in the field to hunt obnoxious animals, he ought to take his spectacles with him, in order to distinguish the sheep from the tiger before he is going to fire his shot; for what can be the pleasure or honour to kill domestic animals?

As several gentlemen in this town have addressed themselves to me in regard to the kerosine regulations, I feel it my duty to request of you the insertion of the following statements in your esteemed journal.

1.—That the framing of the kerosine regulations has been effected by the police department, to which I am not attached.

2.—That I have never been asked by that department for any advice, opinion, or judgment in regard to the said regulations, neither before nor after the time they were published.

3.—That also the bureau of sanitary affairs, to which I am attached, has had nothing to do with the regulations.

4.—That if my advice should be asked for I would suggest with General Van Buren several important modifications and additions of the present regulations before they are to be enforced, because I consider them insufficient, especially in regard to the apparatus to be used, and the exact method to be followed rigorously by all experimenters in testing the oil, and unjust, as far as the time fixed for their introduction.

5.—That I have stated in the *Japan Mail* the opinions of various competent chemists as to the standard only to be adopted for kerosine from a chemical point of view, without giving my own opinion in this matter.

6.—That I have myself had three times experience of lamps in Japan getting in a dangerous condition by the gases burning in the empty part of the reservoir of the lamp and that I am therefore of opinion that some regulations on the quality of petroleum, intended for use in ordinary lamps, are not out of place in Japan, the more so as the Japanese on their part assume that several fires in Tokio have been caused by petroleum lamps.

7.—That none of the articles which appeared in the various journals of Yokohama about the standard of kerosene, have disproved the exactness or the truth of those chemists, who fix the standard for safe oil at between 113° and 122° Fahrenheit flash.

8.—That it is no proof of regulations on kerosene being superfluous or out of place, because there are other countries in the world who do not possess such regulations.

9.—That it is ridiculous to hold foreign advisers in the Japanese service responsible for acts or regulations issued by the Japanese government, as it is a well known fact that not one foreigner in Japanese service possesses such a degree of administrative or legislative power.

10.—That I shall be glad to take the responsibility of all acts performed by myself and to answer any questions in regard to them, but that I positively decline to take in future any notice of false representations, and those accusations which are not accompanied by sufficient proof.

In conclusion, I may add Mr. Editor, I am perfectly willing to give professional advice to, and to combine with merchants, both Japanese and foreign, in this country in order to draw up a memorial stating the shortcomings of the present regulations and with the request to make such alterations and additions as may be decided upon by the meeting as being just and desirable.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

A. J. C. GEERTS.

## THE ARGUS AND THE PORTUGUESE.

To the editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

SIR:—The continued impertinence of the *Argus* compels me to enlighten the public concerning the position of the above-named journal with respect to the Portuguese community.

By the enclosed pamphlet, which I send for your perusal, you can easily solve the problem of the *Argus's* aversion to his countrymen.

The *Argus* is a private, and not a public organ; the editor speaks for himself without reference to any of his friends; the paper in no way represents, and is certainly not an exponent of, Portuguese opinion. That community declines to be held responsible for its absurd utterances.

The *Argus* professes to be a "*jornal noticioso e litterario*." It is nothing of the kind, for it is decidedly political; its harsh language and menacing tone are intolerable, and I unhesitatingly declare that our community utterly detests all its sayings and doings.

On Sunday last, 28th. inst., a meeting of Portuguese residents was convened when 18 out of 23 turned up in obedience to the summons. Amongst other resolutions then passed, it was unanimously agreed to establish a club. Those who were absent have since expressed their willingness to join our "patriotic Gremio" and I see no reason why such a society should not meet with public approval and be exempt from hostile criticism. An economically conducted, non-political club deserves to exist and to be respected.

I pause for a reply from the *Argus* or its partisans—should it happen to have any.

Apologising for trespassing on your space.

I remain, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

ROMULUS.

Yokohama, 31st. August, 1881.

[The "pamphlet" referred to by *Romulus* is a circular printed in Portuguese. It administers some hard knocks to the *Argus*, calls in question its knowledge of syntax and orthography, and plainly indicates that the paper is regarded with anything but respect by the community whose interests it professes to advocate. The idea of establishing a Portuguese club by so small a number is somewhat Utopian, but nevertheless praiseworthy, as indicating a friendly, social feeling not always to be met with amongst Europeans in the far east.—Ed. J. G.]

## CARRIAGE OF PASSENGERS BY SEA.

To the editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

SIR:—I hope you will kindly allow me the use of your columns to call the attention of the public to a subject which I have not seen discussed in the journals before—the lack of life-saving apparatus on the steamers belonging to the Mitsui Bishi Company.

I have lately travelled on several of these steamers, and by careful inquiries I have learned that, although the steamers running to Shanghai are supposed to be well supplied with life-preservers, boats, &c., the steamers on the other lines are in no case thought to be properly equipped. I will mention especially two cases; one, a steamer running along an uncurved coast, carrying often as many as three hundred passengers, having no life pre-

servers and only two small boats capable of carrying not over sixty persons; the other, a large, well-manned steamer having only about twenty life-preservers.

In this connection it may be well to call attention also to the absence of fire extinguishers.

The blame for these deficiencies really lies, of course, with the government, which has not made, or at least has not enforced, the necessary laws in regard to such matters; but the public may well expect the Mitsui Bishi Company to consult its own interest as well as the welfare of the travelling public, and to provide whatever apparatus good sense, if not law, points out as necessary on its steamers.

W.

## THE PRESS LAWS.

To the editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

SIR:—The *Mail* has after all thought it best to discuss and attempt to answer my query in its issue of the 17th. Knowing the peculiar idiosyncrasy of that journal, I thought that perhaps, from day to day, an addition or two followed by a bland and oblivious synthesis of its opposite statements, might all be waited for not without hope.

The subject, however, is evidently a painful one, and the *Mail's* position in this question involves its own submission to a law that is said to have aimed at preventing the publication even of translations from foreign writers, and at an absolute prohibition of foreign editors altogether.

The *Mail*, having left quite uncontradicted my main statement, contents itself with what thus amounts to the admission of a plain truth, viz., that foreigners now, even according to Japanese law, can print and publish a vernacular newspaper in this country.

Why then, it occurs to one to ask, have British subjects been absolutely prohibited from publishing or printing such journals under liability to imprisonment with hard labour for three months or a fine of five hundred dollars?

Yours, &c.,

HENRY FAULDS.

Tokio, August 23rd.

## REGULATIONS WANTED FOR JINRIKISHA.

To the editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

SIR:—I wish to draw attention to a matter which has before now caused much delay and annoyance to all travellers by jinrikisha, in the hope that some regulations may be issued by the local authorities to define what is the proper costume of a jinrikisha man.

Yesterday morning my wife, children, and servant left in jinrikisha for the hills, and when on their way were stopped by a policeman on duty at the kerosene godowns on the creek. The reason assigned for this official's interference was that the men were not properly dressed. Their costume was certainly scanty, but it was perfectly decent. However, all remonstrances were unavailing and the men were marched back towards the police station but released when opposite the public garden. My family having returned, their trip spoiled by the delay and worry, I proceeded to the police station to inquire into the

action of the constable. There the interpreter explained that the men were not properly dressed; whereupon I pointed out to him several men walking in the gardens just opposite to where we were sitting, clad in garb so scant and thin that the unhappy jinrikisha men may be described in comparison as in full dress. This the interpreter considered rather good fun, and by his laughter I judged he thoroughly enjoyed it. To my question of how it came to pass the offenders were brought back and then released without punishment, the interpreter said that on nearing the station they had asked pardon which was granted: but the men had previously asked pardon which had been refused until the whole party had been marched back to Yokohama.

I am, of course, ignorant of the regulations respecting the dress of these men, but repeat there was nothing indecent in their appearance or in a costume suited to the hot and dusty roads over which they were about to travel.

I am, &c.,

J. J. JARMAIN.

Yokohama, August 11th.

[The complaint of Mr. Jarmain is one to which the local government may be disposed to listen and take steps to prevent a recurrence. We believe orders were some years ago issued in deference to the expressed wish of some portion of the residents that jinrikisha men and labourers should be compelled to observe some decency in their apparel; but from want of defined instructions the police seem to act just as fancy directs them. We have on several occasions travelled with men who have passed several policemen without comment to be stopped by another further on, when, in compliance with the constable's orders, a fresh article of dress has been donned to be immediately discarded when out of sight of the policeman. There are, of course, some difficulties in the way of a satisfactory adjustment of this question; but the local authorities are entitled to expect some allowance for the habits of the lower classes, and to refuse too ready compliance with the caprices of prurency. The entire jinrikisha question, including a reasonable tariff of rates, is one which can be dealt with with advantage; and it would be immediately so dealt with by a municipality.—Ed. J. G.]

THE repeated warnings given to residents against the practice of leaving their bedroom windows open at night, without taking the necessary precaution of securely fastening the shutters, do not seem to receive much attention, and those who fall victims to the rapacity of the midnight marauders, and find in the morning that the suit of clothes which they wore on the day previous have mysteriously disappeared, with perhaps a well-filled pocketbook, or a watch, or both, in the pockets, have only themselves to blame, and will doubtlessly recognize the truth of the well-known saw which says: Experience teaches —. Within the last few weeks several such thefts have been reported in the papers, and doubtlessly as many more committed, which the victims have kept quiet. One of the employees of the P. M. S. Co. residing at No. 127 on rising this morning, found he was minus a suit of clothes, which he had left on a chair, not far from a window looking on the street, and which he had left open, placing a bamboo screen before it. The thief by lifting this screen, found he could easily get at the clothes, and accordingly helped himself to them. It need scarcely be added that the policeman was engaged round the corner at the time. We believe a house opposite was entered a few nights ago, the thieves ransacking the premises and abstracting a quantity of clothing.



## STATISTICS OF THE FOREIGN TRADE OF JAPAN.

Compiled from the Annual Reports of H. B. M. Consuls.

TABLE OF VALUES OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS FOR THIRTEEN YEARS ENDING 1880.

	KANAGAWA.		HIOGO & OSAKA.		NAGASAKI.		HAKODATE & NIIGATA.		TOTAL.	
	IMPORTS.	EXPORTS.	IMPORTS.	EXPORTS.	IMPORTS.	EXPORTS.	IMPORTS.	EXPORTS.	IMPORTS.	EXPORTS.
1868	12,396,649	17,698,606	822,404	388,096	1,774,998	1,988,190	6,320	360,441	15,000,371	20,435,383
1869	12,617,174	9,073,302	2,087,052	815,674	2,609,465	1,323,288	43,241	263,401	17,356,932	11,475,645
1870	23,428,965	11,331,482	3,783,606	2,399,567	2,499,867	1,325,539	53,214	86,668	29,770,641	16,143,246
1871	14,445,231	14,431,486	1,694,342	2,081,793	1,545,432	2,380,046	15,600	291,583	17,700,606	19,185,508
1872	20,063,125	15,456,806	4,246,779	5,678,224	1,856,549	2,742,786	21,988	416,717	26,188,441	24,204,532
1873	19,535,758	16,095,208	6,265,699	3,116,095	1,626,775	1,899,798	15,986	549,948	27,444,068	20,660,994
1874	16,716,298	12,741,521	5,649,521	4,962,897	1,940,019	2,179,154	281,013	24,323,629	24,323,629	20,164,585
1875	21,953,909	12,466,730	5,960,427	3,088,133	1,525,090	2,159,803	27,641	350,784	29,467,067	18,014,890
1876	18,641,880	21,431,879	4,156,066	3,600,963	980,809	1,959,673	27,380	773,982	24,015,125	27,669,466
1877	19,480,485	15,628,337	4,881,887	4,638,910	1,578,169	2,078,806	24,000	441,565	26,900,541	22,866,708
1878	26,011,300	16,092,921	5,838,624	6,554,890	1,484,468	2,398,501	Niigata	524,167	33,394,392	26,269,419
1879	23,326,010	18,890,282	7,598,717	5,818,166	1,074,652	1,982,027	Hakodate	683,940	32,603,838	27,372,980
1880	25,964,085	18,577,913	8,779,865	5,794,864	(1)1,405,320	2,435,198	4,459	692,515	36,370,474	27,557,236
	254,790,869	198,906,472	61,713,378	48,843,191	22,483,993	26,852,884	460,274	6,497,986	339,376,124	281,101,542

SYNOPSIS OF THE IMPORT TRADE.

	1868-69.	1870.	1871.	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.	TOTAL.
Shirtings .....	3,485,296	1,780,532	3,489,450	2,256,926	2,697,404	3,736,628	2,602,813	2,979,647	2,131,855	2,548,621	3,649,283	2,798,327	34,006,721
Yarn .....	4,375,431	8,700,277	3,693,444	5,933,342	3,176,798	3,576,554	4,067,850	4,149,694	4,088,890	7,560,968	6,179,863	7,700,476	68,108,562
Other Cottons .....	2,113,181	1,843,644	912,624	1,874,887	3,895,782	1,796,568	2,313,374	1,923,367	2,182,930	2,638,087	2,280,367	2,811,107	26,385,918
Raw Cotton .....	1,642,024	771,144	60,340	67,376	270,088	1,152,066	363,669	1,234,911	424,439	289,207	101,608	170,441	6,087,803
Mousselines .....	Included in Wool- len and Mixtures	161,367	100,111	461,188	371,525	1,074,931	2,393,157	2,268,273	2,373,621	2,779,983	3,126,042	3,478,056	17,489,063
Blankets .....	693,445	659,857	589,250	1,955,831	1,360,092	79,966	179,104	128,113	460,164	352,287	174,905	283,357	3,445,533
Cloth .....	1,068,690	1,161,225	1,367,428	5,155,161	101,432	107,012	492,107	582,493	694,423	735,971	212,108	188,514	8,621,293
Woolens & Mixtures .....	2,859,316	206,908	293,120	83,617	5,582,690	2,057,512	2,806,800	1,311,176	1,859,865	1,925,417	1,966,966	2,144,220	30,191,766
Arms & Ammunition .....	4,588,276	...	...	...	577,645	20,885	44,576	51,959	461,729	296,878	45,494	191,378	6,862,465
Government Goods .....	...	...	...	...	797,395	1,809,115	3,475,278	786,311	671,087	598,463	269,295	459,419	8,866,313
Tea lead and mats .....	281,400	68,490	102,299	45,856	101,432	109,815	164,300	203,431	144,112	128,933	204,377	319,231	1,868,576
Metals .....	1,326,035	320,681	536,291	416,842	451,202	1,131,185	1,043,382	919,383	1,592,052	1,898,006	1,644,304	2,153,892	13,433,055
Sugar .....	1,943,212	2,432,293	3,308,549	2,266,880	2,108,235	2,579,406	3,482,588	2,743,820	2,872,143	3,073,282	3,446,006	3,630,543	33,986,962
Rice .....	4,086,093	12,755,331	768,190	34,192	323,379	14,873	2,050	...	...	...	248,272	134,019	18,043,028
Kerosene .....	...	...	...	58,608	323,379	292,646	570,245	455,792	602,725	1,356,881	2,185,223	1,400,378	7,745,969
Various .....	3,894,965	3,908,892	2,563,509	5,612,127	5,906,224	4,685,467	5,473,774	4,791,755	5,400,546	6,750,413	6,919,809	8,513,116	64,320,597
	(3)32,357,308	29,770,641	17,700,605	26,188,441	27,444,068	24,223,629	29,467,067	24,015,125	25,900,541	33,394,392	32,603,838	36,370,474	339,376,124

COMPARATIVE VALUE OF IMPORTS. MEAN OF 1868-1879 WITH 1880; AND 1879 WITH 1880.

COMMODITIES.	MEAN VAL. 1868-1879.	VALUE.		PER CENTAGE.		DIFFERENCE.		PER CENTAGE.	
		1880.	1879.	DECREASE.	1880.	INCREASE.	DECREASE.	INCREASE.	DECREASE.
Shirtings	2,600,691	2,798,327	3,649,223	7.6	2,798,327	1,520,693	850,896	...	23.3
Yarn	4,200,874	7,700,476	6,179,853	83.3	7,700,476	580,740	...	24.6	...
Other Cottons	1,964,567	2,811,107	2,230,367	43.1	2,811,107	68,848	...	23.4	...
Raw Cotton	488,905	170,441	101,603	...	170,441	353,014	...	63.1	...
Mousselines (6 years only)	2,335,168	3,478,056	3,126,042	43.9	3,478,056	108,451	...	11.2	...
Blankets	263,515	283,357	174,906	7.5	283,357	...	...	61.9	...
Cloth	703,150	188,514	212,108	...	188,514	...	24,694	...	11.6
Other Woollens & Mixtures	2,337,962	2,144,220	1,966,956	...	2,144,220	177,264	...	9.0	...
Arms and Ammunition	556,924	191,378	46,294	...	191,378	146,084	...	324.6	...
Government Goods (7 years only)	1,200,985	459,419	269,296	...	459,419	190,124	...	70.7	...
Tea lead and Mats	939,930	313,231	204,377	...	313,231	108,854	...	53.1	...
Metals	129,620	2,153,962	1,644,304	141.2	2,153,962	509,588	...	31.0	...
Sugar	2,525,537	3,630,543	3,446,006	129.1	3,630,543	184,537	...	5.4	...
Rice	1,492,417	134,019	248,272	43.7	134,019	...	114,253	...	46.1
Kerosene (8 years only)	793,186	1,400,378	2,186,223	78.6	1,400,378	...	784,845	...	35.9
Various	4,650,622	8,513,116	6,919,809	89.0	8,513,116	1,593,307	...	23.0	...

## SYNOPSIS OF THE EXPORT TRADE.

	1868-69.	1870.	1871.	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.	TOTAL.
Silk	15,803,866	5,309,583	8,457,839	7,353,623	7,165,481	5,620,315	5,738,691	13,775,504	10,060,038	8,995,341	11,143,640	9,966,704	109,395,615
Silk Eggs	6,927,638	3,473,160	2,184,688	1,963,159	3,032,460	781,275	474,921	1,902,271	346,998	682,606	582,633	991,021	23,292,810
Tea	5,103,710	3,848,231	4,651,292	5,445,438	4,398,711	7,792,244	6,915,692	5,427,218	4,409,320	4,412,457	7,445,439	7,997,952	67,747,724
Rice	...	...	...	3,122,930	521,709	839,619	17,091	810,760	2,260,936	4,641,653	375,943	210,945	12,801,047
Miscellaneous	4,076,774	2,502,282	3,890,689	6,409,380	5,542,633	5,181,132	4,868,495	5,753,713	5,789,416	7,927,362	7,820,295	8,491,184	67,863,946

COMPARATIVE VALUE OF EXPORTS. MEAN OF 1868-79 WITH 1880; AND 1879 WITH 1880.

COMMODITIES.	MEAN VAL. 1868-1879.	VALUE.		PER CENTAGE.		DIFFERENCE.		PER CENTAGE.	
		1880.	1879.	DECREASE.	1880.	INCREASE.	DECREASE.	INCREASE.	DECREASE.
Silk	8,286,748	9,966,704	11,148,640	...	9,966,704	...	1,181,936	...	10.6
Silk Eggs	1,853,499	991,021	582,623	46.6	991,021	408,398	...	70.1	...
Tea	4,987,484	7,897,922	7,445,489	58.4	7,897,922	452,483	...	6.1	...
Rice	1,049,320	210,406	375,943	80.0	210,406	...	165,538	...	44.0
Miscellaneous	4,893,971	8,491,184	7,820,285	...	8,491,184	...	670,899	...	...

Y A E N.

## SHIRTINGS.

COMMODITIES.	MEAN VAL. 1868-1879.	VALUE.		PER CENTAGE.		DIFFERENCE.		PER CENTAGE.	
		1880.	1879.	DECREASE.	1880.	INCREASE.	DECREASE.	INCREASE.	DECREASE.
Silk	8,286,748	9,966,704	11,148,640	...	9,966,704	...	1,181,936	...	10.6
Silk Eggs	1,853,499	991,021	582,623	46.6	991,021	408,398	...	70.1	...
Tea	4,987,484	7,897,922	7,445,489	58.4	7,897,922	452,483	...	6.1	...
Rice	1,049,320	210,406	375,943	80.0	210,406	...	165,538	...	44.0
Miscellaneous	4,893,971	8,491,184	7,820,285	...	8,491,184	...	670,899	...	...

Average value \$2.24 per piece.

Average value \$32.20 per picul.

(1) These figures include imports and exports to and from Korea; a trade exclusively Japanese. The figures for 1880 are:—imports, \$127,354; exports, 137,607.

(2) Including goods for government use, \$173,761.

(3) Imports for 1868 15,000,371.

" " 1869 17,356,932 32,357,303.

(4) Export in 1868 20,435,333.

" " 1869 11,476,645 31,910,978.

## FOREIGN RESIDENTS IN THE OPEN PORTS IN 1880.

	KANAGAWA.	OSAKA.	HIOGO.	NAGASAKI.	HIKODATE.	TOTAL.
British ... ..	567	12	216	75	23	893
Austro-Hungarian ... ..	6	—	5	8	—	19
Belgian ... ..	11	—	—	2	—	13
Chinese ... ..	2,505	133	516	407	23	3,584
Danish ... ..	12	—	6	8	1	27
Dutch ... ..	51	1	14	2	—	68
French ... ..	102	7	12	20	10	151
German ... ..	200	5	50	14	2	271
Hawaiian ... ..	—	—	3	—	—	3
Italian ... ..	14	—	5	5	—	24
Peruvian ... ..	—	—	—	4	—	59
Portuguese ... ..	45	—	10	4	—	67
Russian ... ..	42	—	2	22	1	30
Spanish (Manila Men) ... ..	30	—	—	—	—	15
Swedish and Norwegian ... ..	14	—	1	—	—	32
Swiss ... ..	32	—	—	—	—	347
United States ... ..	250	19	49	26	3	3,871
	3,871	177	889	593	63	5,603

## Occasional Notes.

THE lines of the "Fourth Estate" seldom fall in pleasant places in this part of the world—or anywhere else for that matter. There are troubles from within, and from without. Of those from within, the recent contest which has been waged between two of our contemporaries may be taken as a sample. Troubles from without are too numerous to mention; but not the least of them is the oft-repeated cry of "nothing in the papers," when hard-worked journalists have gone to the utmost limit in the paste and scissors line and are at their wits' ends what to write about. By the way one of our contemporaries appears to write a great deal more with the scissors than he does with the pen and ink, but that is neither here nor there. Then again, there is much to be endured from high and mighty officials who sometimes find themselves and their works inconveniently criticised and who consequently hate newspapers "newspaper fellows," &c. like poison and are prepared to consign them to a climate very much hotter than that of either India, China or Japan. In Bangalore, members of the press seem to receive more consideration. In its issue of the 28th. June, the *Lahore Civil and Military Gazette* publishes a letter from its Bangalore correspondent, in which the writer says:—"You gentlemen of the Fourth estate have been made the subject of special prayer at the Kirk in Bangalore, by the acting chaplain, the Rev. H. Rice who, last Sunday in praying for the Queen, Country, Parliament, Governors, &c., included editors of the newspaper! It was certainly a novel petition to put up, but the responsibilities of editors are often as heavy as those of 'Governors and Councillors,' and in that light the prayer is very *apropos*." "We accept," says the *Madras Mail*, quoting the above, "the compliment in the spirit in which it is offered. 'Uneasy lies the head' that has to concoct leading articles, willy nilly, at a moment's notice, day after day, month after month, year after year. Governors and Councillors are, of course, the very salt of the earth; but what, and where would the world be without its Editors? Possibly some mercenary journalists would prefer the prompt payment of subscriptions to gratuitous prayers on their behalf. We blush for such misguided brethren of our noble craft."

A CORRESPONDENT writes as follows:—

The *Japan Mail* can see clearly that a little stricter police supervision is necessary to

protect its own office (see its issue of the 20th. inst. That a foreigner may be attacked however, at neither a very late hour nor on so very lonely a road, but close to the end of the Bluff and just outside a native village is, of course, no fault of the Japanese. So it would appear from a dreary and would-be sarcastic letter in its columns last night commenting on which, an editorial agrees, saying that it is absurd to insist that the new road should be controlled by anything beyond a patrol.

Yet while robberies and crimes of violence are of almost daily occurrence under the very noses of the police, the *Mail* tells us, on unimpeachable authority, that the guardians of the peace can find leisure to visit the pseudo tea-houses, on the same road which they cannot protect after dusk, to drag their inmates to the police station, and by the application of something very like torture, make their unfortunate victims, guilty or innocent, plead to a misdemeanour. It must be admitted that for bullying a defenceless native or foreign woman, clubbing some poor drunken sailor, or tyrannizing over a half clad or lampless *jiuriksha* man, the police have no equals. For the more vulgar purpose of protecting life and property, their utter inefficiency is an established fact.

By the bye, your contemporary corrects you for using the word "diverted": could he, from the pedestal of infallibility, teach us the meaning of the word "manhandled?"

THE *Mai-nichi Shinbun* refers to the construction of a fort at Shimoseki, and says that this work has been under consideration in the army department since last year, but owing to the great expense which would be incurred, it is not yet decided on, and will not be commenced at present; but the engineering office of the department is urging a speedy preparation of the plan so as to be in readiness.

THE *Hochi Shinbun* announces that Mr. Godai is said to have been struck by a large, sharp-pointed stone which came flying from a hidden place and received a serious wound in his side.

THE *Choya Shinbun* has the following item:—Small specie like 20 sen, 10 sen piece, &c., have been very scarce in Kobe for a long time; the people have not even seen them in circulation. But now, such small coins are about to be freely issued and the people are eager to obtain them; but of these coins, most of the ten sen piece are said to be counterfeit.

A RUMOUR is current that a certain high official has frequently called at the Oriental Bank in Yokohama, for the purpose of making some arrangement to bring currency to the same value as specie; but the *Mai-nichi Shinbun* says that it cannot vouch for the truth of the report.

THE *Choya Shinbun*, in an angry article translated in the *Japan Herald* of the 27th instant, alludes to the late kerosene notification as being purely home legislation with which foreign nations have no concern whatever; winding up with the usual cry that if foreigners are permitted to interfere Japan's right to legislate will be at an end, and her independence scattered to the winds.

We pin the *Choya Shinbun* down to the kerosene notification, and ask our esteemed, because usually very honest, contemporary to defend it on its merits; and to refrain from mixing up the question with matter in no wise connected with it.

WILL the *Choya Shinbun* explain, or give any good reasons in the form of instances of serious accidents resulting from its use which have occurred, why the government should, after permitting the trade in kerosene without the least demur for ten years or so, suddenly interdict it in such a manner that, if the notification is carried into effect, must entail very heavy losses upon those who have engaged in a trade made lawful and proper by treaty stipulations and commercial usage?

WHEN the *Choya Shinbun* raves about the "independence" of Japan, what does it mean? Does our contemporary intend to assert that "independence" means an utter contempt for all the decencies which are supposed to govern the intercourse of nations as of individuals; and a reckless disregard of the rights and property of others who, having trusted to the good faith of the Japanese government, suddenly find themselves deceived?

Those who talk in this most unreasonable manner about Japanese independence, should remember that others who have trusted to the honour of Japan, and the inviolability of the treaties of commerce, whose rights are invaded, must take those measures the law of nature dictates to protect their independence from invasion and eventual destruction.

THE treaties provide that foreigners and Japanese may freely buy, sell, keep, use, resell, and, in fact, do whatever they like with all or any commodities not contraband. Let the *Choya Shinbun* mark the qualification. *Contraband* means prohibited; and if Japan, one party to the treaty, can, without the consent of the other party, on her own motion, declare all or any class of goods to be contraband, the substantial effect of the kerosene notification, the whole foreign trade is at the mercy of this country, and the treaties become mere paper snares to entrap the unwary.

If this simple and plain reasoning has no effect upon the *Choya Shinbun*, that journal will take up a position which comes to this. If the kerosene notification was issued after full consideration of all the surrounding circumstances, and is intended to be put in force in defiance of public opinion, the "in-

dependence" of Japan resolves itself into contemptuous indifference for the rights of others, and of the international obligations imposed upon all parties to the treaties.

If the *Japan Mail* is right, and no doubt it has good grounds for the statement that the testing of kerosene oil is to be entrusted to the police, the recent kerosene notification is but another evidence of what has been remarked before, that every new Japanese regulation affecting foreigners is open to the fatal objection of being so framed as to assist and benefit the rogue at the expense of the honest man.

In the first place, the police are wholly incompetent to perform the operation of testing either the flashing or burning point of kerosene; and their experiments will perhaps be infinitely more dangerous than the use of the commonest oil would be in properly constructed lamps.

In the second place, the pay the police receive is too small to ensure honesty in the lowest menial servant, and is utterly inadequate for any official charged with the care of the public peace and property. Not the slightest confidence is felt in the police even in the execution of their ordinary routine duty; and that they should be entrusted with the inspection of a valuable import about which they know nothing, is an untenable proposition. Should such a thing come to pass, the bribe of a few yen which the dishonest importer or purchaser will not scruple to offer, nor the police to receive, will pass whole cargoes of inferior oil; while good oil in the hands of the honest merchant who will not stoop to these degrading and dishonourable practices, will be condemned.

If anything were wanted to show the hasty manner in which the kerosene oil notification was prepared, it is the utter absence of any indication of the method in which the tests should be applied, and the officials who are to act as examiners. The *Mail* alludes to an import of about "a million gallons per annum." The quantity is nearer ten million gallons, packed in cases each containing two five-gallon tins. This gives two million packages for examination; and how and when the policemen of to-day are to get through the task is more than we can answer. The only proper method would be the appointment, at each of the ports where oil is imported, of competent men who, like Mr. H. M. Miller, the customs appraiser, should possess the confidence of all concerned, and whose position and remuneration raise him above suspicion. On the landing of kerosene, cases should be taken at random out of each cargo-boat load, and if the test proves satisfactory the lot should be passed. If any grounds for suspicion arise the test could be extended, if necessary, to every case; but it should be distinctly understood that when the oil has once passed the customs it has complied with government requirements, and is not to be subjected to the capricious and utterly untrustworthy interference of a parcel of boys in uniform, receiving wages ranging from six to ten yen currency per month.

FINALLY, we once more call the attention of the *Choya Shinbun* to the fact that kerosene is not an English article of export. It comes over from the United States, a nation that has always treated Japan with the utmost generosity and consideration; and that any

diplomatic representations, when they become necessary, will emanate from the United States legation in a form in which all other representatives who have the general good of all, Japanese included, at heart, have concurred.

THE *Chiugai Bukka Shinpo* gives the following particulars concerning the Union Silk Depôt Company which will commence business on the 1st. prox.

The Union Silk Depôt Company has been established at Honcho Rokuchome, Yokohama, with a limited capital of 100,000 yen for the purpose of storing raw, floss, and other silk.

Merchants engaged in the trade of raw and other silks with foreign houses are alone eligible to join the company.

The company provides safe and spacious godowns wherein goods deposited may be insured against fire. It receives goods from the producing districts for sale in Yokohama to native and foreign merchants, as well as for those who buy silk and convey it to Yokohama for their own business.

The quantity to be kept by each merchant in his own house for sample is not to exceed one bale of each kind of silk. Goods purchased in port by members of the company to be deposited in the godowns.

The company furnishes a room for the examination of silk, with requisite instruments for testing the strength, size, weight, elasticity, &c.

When any silk deposited in the company's godowns has been sold the interchange of goods for money is to be made at the offices. Weights used are to be of English pattern, the tare being of cotton cloth for all except waste and floss silk; for the latter any tare may be used.

The company hold themselves responsible for the safe keeping of goods deposited in their godowns and bind themselves to make good any losses fairly attributable to faulty construction of buildings or neglect on the part of its servants.

The following fees will be charged by the company:—

For examination of each bale of raw silk deposited...	75 sen.
" Storage of do. per bale ...	10 "
" Examination of each bale of other kinds of silk ...	30 "
" Storage of do. per bales ...	5 "

THE *Japan Herald* is particularly lenient in its allusions to the slanderer who, under the cloak of anonymity, refers to "a brace of English journals, which have never lost an opportunity to malign the Japanese, or defame their country."

To all such calumniators, and to "E.S.M." in particular, we say, produce reasonable proof to support your assertion, otherwise, as Sir Toby Belch said to Fabian, "Thou — in thy throat."

THE *Kaimon-kan*, says the *Hochi Shinbun*, which has been under construction at the Yokosuka dock, is completed with the exception of boilers. She will be launched some time during November.

YESTERDAY morning a sailing ship was launched at the dock at Ishikawashima belonging to Mr. Hirano. She was constructed by the order of Mr. Tatsuma Kichizayemon, a celebrated sake brewer at Nishinomiya in

Settsu, and is the largest and strongest ship ever built at the dock. Her length is 130 feet, breadth 21 feet, depth 18 feet, and her tonnage 529.

THE same paper says that the capital of the Kwansei Boyeki Shokwai is to be one million yen, of which 500,000 yen are to be raised in Osaka, 100,000 yen in Tokio, and the remainder in other parts of Japan. 50,000 yen, that is, ten per cent. of the sum proposed to be raised in Osaka, was already subscribed on June 3rd last, and it is now proposed to establish branch offices in Kobe, Nagasaki, Hakodate, and Shanghai, and also to raise 100,000 yen in Tokio.

THE *Mainichi Shinbun* refers to a rumour that the Boyeki Shokwai in Yokohama has been reported to have borrowed money from some German firms. It intends to establish large godowns in Tokio in concert with a certain government department and some Germans, for the purpose of receiving goods deposited.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* extracts the following item from the *Hochi Shinbun*:— A rumour is current to the effect that the Chinese government are inclined to settle the difficulty with Japan in connection with Loochooan affairs, by appealing to arms. They intend to send a messenger to this country demanding satisfaction for the action of the Japanese government towards Loochoo, and on the other side, government intend to send H. E. Inouye to China as an ambassador on a similar errand.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* announces that great excitement has been raised among the young people of Tottori by the transactions of the Kaitakushi, and the police authorities there are making exertions to prevent them from openly breaking out.

THE *Hochi Shinbun* says that in the Hokkaido there are a great many bears, wolves, wild dogs, and crows, which are destructive to lives and crops in the island, and the Kaitakushi has offered prizes to those killing these creatures, at the following rate:—7 yen for one bear, 5 yen for one wolf, 50 sen for a wild dog, and 4 sen for a crow. The result is from the tenth fiscal year to the thirteenth fiscal year of Meiji.

	KILLED.	PRIZES.
Bears ... ..	279 ...	yen 1,335.00
Wolves ... ..	21 ...	97.00
Wild dogs ... ..	459 ...	22.75
Crows ... ..	23,397 ...	935.88
Eggs of crows ... ..	4,275 ...	171.00

THE same paper announces that at 1 a.m. yesterday, fire broke out at No. 7 Nishitakecho, Hongo-ku, Tokio, when about 60 houses were burned. It was extinguished by about 3.10 a.m.

ENCOURAGED by the temporal success of the *Argus*, the Portuguese residents have resolved upon what may truly be termed a 'desperate' enterprise, which however much it may say for their energy and sociability, does not speak very highly for their wisdom. The scheme now under discussion is the formation of a club, which it is proposed to call the "Sociedade Portuguesa," and our contemporary, from whose columns we glean these particulars, is very liberal in his approbation, and considers it, to use his own expression, 'a sublime idea.' According to the circular published, a meeting was to have been held



yesterday afternoon at 2 p.m., but we are unable to say with what result. We must confess inability to see what expectations of success can be entertained by the promoters of the scheme, who can only hope for the support of, at the most, half of their fellow residents, who number in all forty-five; and it is easy to foretell the end of a club consisting of twenty-two or twenty-three persons.

WHEN will some benefactor of his species resume the importation of Swedish or Danish matches? The manufacture of this useful article of every one's daily life seemed especially suitable to Japanese ingenuity, and for some time the result of their industry was in every way satisfactory, until importation lessened and the wholesome stimulus of competition was withdrawn. Now, instead of the cheap and trustworthy Sakkerhet Tandstickor, a match that can be lighted under any circumstances, indeed we question if even a typhoon would prevent the fulfilment of the object of its creation, we have the abominable Japanese imitation. The matches now in use are of the worst possible description; the materials are bad; the wood undergoes no preparation with kerosene wax or any other substance to insure its speedy ignition; the tipping of the matches is either useless as an agent of ignition, or it flies in all directions when struck, setting on fire everything near it except the match itself. Rarely if ever can a light be obtained before the twelfth or fifteenth match, and when a flame appears the greatest care is necessary to get the wood thoroughly alight, the faintest puff of air at once extinguishing it. These trials of patience and temper are intolerable, and if the Japanese cannot make even a serviceable match by all means let the import of an article much wanted be resumed.

By the way, as kerosene oil which flashes below 120° is dangerous, what have the authorities to say to the villainously perilous articles called matches; the self-acting incendiaries of Japan?

A FEW days ago, by way of beguiling an idle hour we took up a volume of Mark Twain's works and stumbled across the following passage:—

"The country editor offers his advertising space to the public at the trifle of one dollar and a half or two dollars a square, first insertion, and one would suppose his 'patrons' would be satisfied with that. But they are not. They puzzle their thin brains to find out some still cheaper way of getting their wares celebrated—some way whereby they can advertise virtually for nothing. They soon hit upon that meanest and shabbiest of all contrivances for robbing a gentle-spirited scribbler, viz., the conferring upon him of a present and begging a 'notice' of it—thus pitifully endeavouring to not only invade his sacred editorial columns, but to get ten dollars worth of advertising for fifty cents' worth of merchandise, and on top of that leave the poor creature burdened with a crushing debt of gratitude!"

When first we read this we exercised a liberal spirit of charity and large-heartedness towards tradesmen in general, and declined to believe that any of them would have recourse to such mean dodges to evade advertising fees. We took for granted that the great American humourist was perpetrating what Artemus Ward calls a "goak" on his un-

suspecting readers. During the past week, our child-like confidence in the integrity of, at least, one class of tradesmen has been rudely shaken; we have received through the post two packets of tobacco from the manufacturers, who will probably expect in return half a column of fulsome editorial compliments. Not if we know it. Besides how do they know we are addicted to the "noxious weed"? as far as they are aware we might be most rigid anti-tobaccoists, whom any attempt to test their wares might lay on a bed of sickness. At any rate, they have reckoned without their host; we are not in the habit of receiving payment in kind for "notices." If they desire to puff their patent "long cut," our advertising columns are open to them for the purpose on the same terms as they are to the rest of the world.

THE Union Silk Depot Company will commence operations on the 1st instant. The capital will, we understand, be utilized for advances on silk deposited in the company's godowns awaiting the rush of foreign buyers, who are expected in immense numbers on the morning of Thursday next. Should foreigners show any diffidence or hesitation about payment of the prices demanded, they will be politely shown to the door; and the silk will be packed and shipped by the Boyeki Shokwai for realisation abroad for the benefit of the producer.

THE *Hochi Shinbun* says that on the 27th. instant H.E. Ito called at H.E. Sanjo's residence and had a conference with him; on the next day all the sangi and secretaries of the cabinet, assembled at H.E. Sanjo's house and held a long consultation. It is said, that the business was connected with the Hokkaido affair.

A TELEGRAM has been received to the effect that His Imperial Majesty the Mikado left Awomori yesterday in the imperial yacht, for the Hokkaido.

It has been notified by the war department that salutes to the sons of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, shall be conducted in the same way as recently to the Prince of Germany.

We learn that one of the government departments subscribes for three hundred copies of an English newspaper published in Yokohama; and that these copies are subsequently sent free by post to prominent personages in Europe and the United States. The desire to instruct foreign opinion on the condition of affairs in Japan is very commendable; and shows that the government are not so bitterly opposed to criticism as one of our contemporaries at least would have us believe. Of the truth of the report we have some flashes of doubt, although similar transactions are on record; and the only manner in which the question can be settled is to ascertain which journal is the lucky recipient of government money. For ourselves we deny it upon honour. Perhaps the *Herald* will, as this is a matter affecting the integrity of the press as a body, do the same. The *Japan Mail*, as we all know, has already emphatically denied the rumour that it is in receipt of any assistance or support from the government of Japan.

When the *Herald* has done what we believe it will do in its own interest, the circle of denial will be complete, for the *Mail* can

have no possible objection to again, and more expressly, repudiate the imputation embodied in this distressing rumour.

If two persons submit a question in dispute between them to an arbitrator, they do so upon their faith in the honour of the person selected to fill the office of judge. If one party should eventually find that the arbitrator is in receipt of a fixed stipend from the other party, would his confidence be in any manner shaken?

The press in this little place is compelled, by sheer force of circumstances, to act in many cases the part of arbitrator in the consideration of questions arising between native and foreigner, its decision frequently guiding public opinion into the right path, and enlightening both parties on the merits of an action they are naturally unable, from want of time and other causes, to examine for themselves. So long as the press is independent, opinions of this sort are useful; but the moment it enters the pay of a party it becomes obnoxious to the harshest criticism, and open to the severest suspicion of *mala fides*.

WE regret to learn that official information has been received that our much-dreaded enemy cholera, has broken out in Kagoshima and the vicinity, and is rapidly spreading. The province of Kagoshima provided the earliest cases of the fearful epidemic which commenced in 1877, lulled in 1878, and broke out in Osaka and spread throughout the country with awful virulence in 1879. We trust the local boards of health, which did such effective service in 1879, will be reformed without delay. For the rest we have every confidence in the earnest purpose of the government; and it will be our duty and pleasure to cooperate with them in every way in the measures that may be adopted to stem the spread of the disease.

In a paragraph reproduced some time ago in the Yokohama newspapers, one of our American contemporaries stated as a proof of the advance made by the Japanese in the arts of civilization that a journal called the *Echo du Japon* was being written and published in Tokio by certain Japanese who understood French, and that this journal was circulated solely amongst the Japanese. But what the writer thought a still stronger, and more important proof was the publication by the War Department at Tokio of a polyglot dictionary intended principally for the use of the military and naval officers. Both these assertions were thought to be the outcome of the vivid imagination of the writer, but according to the *Echo du Japon*, (not the one mentioned in the paragraph in question) the dictionary does exist, it having been published in 1880. Its existence was, however, kept a profound secret, and it was only through the indiscretion of some officials attached to the European legation that it became known. The *Echo*, which is in possession of a copy, states that it is a volume of about one thousand pages and is in French, German, English, Dutch and Japanese in the order named. It contains only technical terms employed in the army and navy, and has been compiled principally for the interpreters of the staff office, and the bureaux of ministers of war and marine. In addition to the letter press there are eighteen copper-plates, containing two hundred fairly well executed illustrations of the arms of all ages, from the sling to those in use at the present time, &c., &c. It

certainly seems strange how a work of such difficulty and magnitude should have been published without even our native contemporaries hearing of it, but when it is known that the work is little more than a translation from one of the four languages into Japanese it will be less surprising. Such however seems to be the case. It is a translation of a dictionary published in 1867 by a Dutch military officer in French, German, English and Dutch. Of course it was a somewhat difficult task to find equivalents in Japanese for the technical words and if correctly done will be creditable to those who assisted in the translation. It is however extremely difficult to ascribe any reason for the great secrecy observed in connection with this work, which, unless some weighty reason can be given by those interested in, to say the least, extremely childish.

By a telegram, we learn that His Imperial Majesty the Mikado arrived at Sapporo at 9 p.m. the day before yesterday.

THE *Choya Shinbun* says:—We hear that on the 28th. of last month a telegram, from a minister accompanying the Mikado to the north, was received by a certain high official in Tokio, to the effect that after some consideration, the sale of the properties of the Kaitakushi was stopped. We cannot vouch for the truth of this rumour; we simply give it for what it is worth.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* remarks:—When the sale of the properties of the Kaitakushi was first discussed by the cabinet, H. E. Sano minister of the finance department disagreed with it and expressed his opinion that it would be better to leave the Kaitakushi in its present state, than to sell the factories, etc. to a few favoured merchants for their private convenience. A rumour is now current that the proposed sale has been abandoned, which rumour we referred to the day before yesterday, therefore it seems that H. E. Sano's proposition was accepted. It is also said, Mr. Kuroda sent a telegram to Mr. Yasuda, first secretary of the Kaitakushi, the day before yesterday, ordering him to leave Tokio at once for the Hokkaido.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* remarks:—The time for the arrival of silk worm's eggs at Yokohama is approaching; the first supply of them will probably be here about the 20th. inst. It is said that silk merchants are rather discouraged at the prospects of their business. Some Italian merchants arrived at Yokohama a few days ago and are waiting to purchase the first eggs which arrive.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* has the following items:—

H.E. Inouye, minister of the foreign department who has been spending some time at the mineral springs of Arima in the island of Itauku, has been hastily called back by the government and will probably be in Tokio to-morrow. It is said he will be sent to Europe.

Admiral Yenomoto is said to have sent, or intends to send, a memorial to the government with regard to the proceeding of the Kaitakushi.

In March next, an exhibition will be held of products, and fish in salt and fresh water, and as the Hokkaido is to take the chief part in it, preparations are already being made in the Kaitakushi.

THE *Akebono Shinbun* remarks:—We hear from one who has recently received a communication from Peking, that Li-Hung-Chun made great exertions to establish a friendly relation between China and Japan when negotiations were first made between these countries; it may therefore be said, that through his influence, the existing treaty was concluded. Soon after, there ensued the expedition to Formosa, and the Loochooan and Korean affairs, which the Chinese felt to be injuries inflicted by the Japanese upon their honour. Li-Hung-Chung is held responsible by his brother officials for the events following the treaty. He is said to have decided to advocate war for settling the Loochooan difficulty.

THE same journal says that owing to some absurd custom observed by foreigners in silk transactions, native silk traders consulted together and have decided not to take any silk to foreign houses but to sell the stock at their own shops: we are also informed that foreigners have held a consultation among themselves and have determined to oppose the measure adopted by native merchants, by discontinuing the sale or purchase of silk in Yokohama and carrying on their business at Tsukiji. It is said that they instead to build a great establishment there.

THE *Choya Shinbun* says:—From January of next year, the new criminal code and the code of criminal procedure will be in force. A meeting of the chief judges of all the saibansho will be summoned at the judicial department, and then a new chief judge of each saibansho will be appointed by the minister of the department.

THE suggestion in the *Japan Herald* of yesterday, to the effect that a public reception should be accorded to Sir Harry Parkes, H. B. M. minister on his return to Japan after an absence of two years, is well worthy of being followed up. Some months ago we privately made the same suggestion to several of the older residents who seemed to enter warmly into the project, but before taking any steps in the matter the general opinion was that nothing should be done until something definitive was known about Sir Harry Parkes's movements. Nothing certain is yet before the public, but as Sir Harry Parkes's absence was understood to be for about two years, and Mr. Kennedy has received his appointment to St. Petersburg, the return of our very popular minister may be looked for before the 15th. of October.

We, therefore, very cordially second the proposition of our contemporary that a meeting should be convened to determine the manner in which Sir Harry Parkes should be welcomed on his return to Japan; and take the liberty of adding that the wiser, and probably the more correct method of proceeding will be to call together a dozen of the older residents of all nationalities in private meeting, to constitute those gentlemen a preliminary committee, to raise the necessary subscriptions, and finally submit to a general meeting of subscribers the form of ceremonial proposed to be observed. If this plan be adopted there is little doubt the suggestion of the *Japan Herald* will meet with warm support from a vast majority of foreign residents who, apart from their personal regard

for Sir Harry Parkes, are desirous of expressing their sense of his past great services, and of the calumnies and persecution to which he has lately been subjected.

THE *Choya Shinbun* refers to a report from Shimane-ken, which says that the crop of rice in Inaba and Hoki, promises to be abundant this season, and that its price, which has gradually fallen since the end of last month in those provinces, now stands at 6 yen per koku.

THE *Hochi Shinbun* says that Mr. Nakano Goichi, who has been a member of the Fujita's company, has withdrawn himself from it and joined the Kwansei Boyeki Shokwai of which he has become manager. He intends, it is said, to engage in the trade of the Hokkaido.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* says, that specie being insufficient to meet requirements in a certain government department, an application has been made to foreigners in Yokohama to purchase 100,000 yen. If such a deficiency exists the government had better not sell specie for the present. We are not aware which department the rumour refers to.

We have frequently connected upon the utter inefficiency of the Yokohama police whom we pay for so heavily. An incident occurred on Tuesday night which only confirms what has been reiterated over and over again. Mr. V. de Bavier, a gentleman but recently arrived from home, was returning from Negishi on horseback at about half past nine. When approaching where the road makes a bend and a dip from the race course, he saw three men draw themselves up across the road, so as to prevent his passing them. He challenged them loudly but received no reply, and therefore fired a shot from a revolver, which he luckily carried, up into the air. The men then disappeared only to rush out upon him a short distance further on from the thick shadow of the bank. They seized the pony's reins and backed the animal, when the rider again used his revolver, and the frightened animal, terrified by the reports bolted clear from his assailants, one of whom had already inflicted a small wound doubtless with a short Japanese sword on Mr. de Bavier's leg. As the pony bolted one man fell, but it is impossible to say whether from the result of a shot, or the rush of the pony. When he had succeeded in controlling the animal he returned to the scene of the attack, but the fallen man and his accomplices had disappeared. We believe the police have been communicated with, but do not anticipate anything more will be heard of the ruffians who no doubt have the same opinion of the efficiency of the Yokohama police as that held by the foreign residents, and felt certain of acting with impunity. Mr. de Bavier must certainly be congratulated on his narrow escape from robbery, if not from a more serious danger.

As the S. S. *Hiroshima-Maru* steamed out of harbour yesterday evening, flying the German flag forward, a salute was fired from H. I. G. M.'s *S. Hertha* in honor of the German minister who was a passenger on board the former vessel for Kobe and Nagasaki.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* says:—The minister of Belgium in Japan has been directed by his government, through a telegram, to return to his country at once in connection with a treaty revision between Japan and Belgium.

THE same paper remarks:—In Osaka, a great quantity of counterfeit paper money of one yen and fifty sen pieces are in circulation, and they are manufactured with such great skill that everybody is deceived by them, except bankers and money changers. At railway stations such as Umeda, Kanzaki, Ibaragi, &c., fifty or sixty of these notes were daily discovered, causing great trouble and loss to the innocent bearers of them. About twenty persons have already been arrested on suspicion. Osaka is always a centre from whence spurious paper emanates; but we hope that such centre will not be removed towards the east.

THE British clipper bark *Forward Ho*, Capt. Wade arrived yesterday morning from London, and is detained at the outer anchorage, having on board a quantity of cartridges and gunpowder; this vessel made the quickest time last year viz. 112 days and has eclipsed all passages made this year viz. 115 days.

SOME time ago, we drew attention to the hopelessness of expecting to find in underpaid Japanese policemen faithful guardians of our lives and properties. Indeed Japanese morals are not of a standard to allow us to expect this, and it is greatly to be doubted whether their European brethren of the lamp-post would prove much more trustworthy if placed under the same circumstances. Without saying that an increase of wages would bring the force (that is, that of the foreign settlements) up to a state of efficiency, we hold that it, in addition to judicious reorganization and reinforcement and a strict adherence to the regulations, would place them in a better position to resist the tribes of petty thieves and housebreakers, who are a nuisance to foreign settlers, and in whose pay the policemen most undoubtedly are. If the affairs of the police in the open ports were in some way laid before the public for inspection, it would no doubt prove beneficial in stimulating the officers to a greater zeal in the performance of their duties, than they at present seem to exercise; and would render it more difficult for their subordinates to wilfully neglect theirs to the same extent as at present. The prevention of crime is a primary consideration in Japan, for it is in the last degree hopeless to expect ever to recover stolen goods through the agency of the detective force who as yet can boast of but few successes, and who seem to possess reactionary proclivities. In Nagasaki it would appear that crime, in the way of housebreaking, has reached an alarming state. Within one week, no less than four robberies, not including numerous frustrated attempts, were committed. In one instance, a safe was stolen from the bar room of a hotel, the thieves carrying it to a grave-yard on the Oura Hill, and, cutting a hole in the bottom, leisurely abstracted the contents. If other proofs were needed in support of the charges which have so repeatedly been made against the fidelity of the police, this occurrence ought to disperse all doubt. Our Nagasaki contemporary seems to share our opinions on the efficacy of the so-called detective force, and expresses himself very strongly in his comments on these

robberies. We reproduce his remarks; a reference to the police reports will show the readiness with which the policemen take advantage of a drunken sailor to exercise their oudgels on his face and body, always taking care to collect a sufficient force before attacking, to ensure success:—

"In the matter of the robberies recorded above, we have not heard of a single arrest having been made by the police, nor even of the slightest clue having been discovered by the detectives: in fact, we must confess we should have been considerably surprised if we had. Of any one particular native institution against which the foreign residents of Nagasaki have more for complaint than another, it is that of which Mr. Kagenori Yamagawa is the responsible head. Rottenness, incapacity, and corruption, are words inadequate to express to him our candid opinion of its normal condition; and it would also be vain of us to attempt to enlighten him as to the full extent of the contemptibleness in which he and his subordinates are held by those with whose safety (?) and protection (?) they are supposed to be entrusted.

The only conclusion that can be drawn from recent events is that the local police force must either be hand-in-hand with the robbers and partners in the spoil, or they are endowed with most unaccountably queer faculties. Nothing seems easier than for them to catch the first notes of an altercation between a native grog-shop keeper and a foreign sailor, or a jinrikisha coolie and a stranger whom the former is endeavouring to impose an exorbitant fare upon. A crowd of twenty of them will rush upon the scene in a twinkling, to protect their meek and helpless countrymen from the outrageously overbearing foreigner. But when it comes to be a house broken into in the settlement; when a heavy piece of furniture is carried through the streets during the dead of night by a gang of burglars; when hammers and chisels are clanking at a time all honest people are in their beds:—then the case is altered. For the time being, their ears refuse to hear, blindness suddenly overtakes them, and their tongues are mute. One portion of their body, however, retains its power of action, and that is invariably brought into requisition for propulsion at a rapid rate in an opposite direction.

Few, if any, will disagree with us when we say that it is time something was done to ensure better protection of property in the settlement than at present exists. The question is, what can be done? A patrol guard of foreigners has been suggested; but it will, we fear, be found impracticable. It would not answer the purpose, if thieves caught by foreigners and handed over to the police were, after a mock trial at the station, either openly discharged or secretly allowed to make their escape. And, during our brief experience, such cases have occurred. Nothing short of absolute fear of capture, sooner or later, and a wholesome dread of the subsequent punishment, will deter men evilly inclined from following the bent of their inclinations. And that, at present, does not exist, or even the bare possibility of it."

WHEN the present year of grace dawned upon the world, its approach was regarded with no small amount of consternation by the superstitious. This was perhaps due in a great measure to the "prophecy" of Mother Shipton which had previously been largely published and republished by various

newspapers in all parts of the globe. It was confidently asserted that the prediction was uttered by the aforesaid apocryphal old soul about 400 years ago, and had been recovered from the archives of the British Museum. It at length turned out to be a clever forgery perpetrated, only as far back as 1862, by a second rate poetaster hailing from Brighton, whose name we forget, after every "foretold" event, except the last, had happened "Poetic license" is unlimited and the conditions of rhyme are perhaps arbitrary. Having written:—

"The world unto an end will come"—

he could probably find no better line to complete the couplet than

"In eighteen hundred and eighty-one"

and straightway adopted it, to the great terror of credulous readers. So far, 1881 has been rather barren of stirring events, unless the murder of the Czar of Russia, the death of Lord Beaconsfield, the disturbed state of Ireland and the attempt on the life of President Garfield may be considered as such. Prophecy-mongers and their works are not quite extinct. Here is another "sell," said to be the work of one Leonardo Aretino, an Italian prophet of the fourteenth century, which puts Mother Shipton's to shame altogether, and is probably equally as genuine. The unpleasant fact is disclosed that our globe is sure of destruction in November 1881. The dissolution is to begin on the 15th. and last for fifteen days. According to Aretino the programme will be arranged, as follows:—

"1st. day—The sea will overflow. 2nd. day—The water will penetrate into the soil. 3rd. day—Death of all fresh-water fish. 4th. day—Death of sea animals. 5th. day—Death of the birds. 6th. day—Fall of all houses and buildings. 7th. day—Fall of the rocks. 8th. day—Earthquake. 9th. day—Fall of the mountains. 10th. day—Men will become dumb. 11th. day—The graves will open. 12th. day—Rain of stars. 13th. day—Death of all mankind. 14th. day—Destruction of heaven and earth by fire. 15th. day—General resurrection and last judgment."

"By way of a companion picture to the foregoing, we may as well give the following extract from the *San Francisco Occident* (a Presbyterian organ) on the same subject:

There is much excitement in some parts of the East and in Canada over the supposed approaching dissolution of all things, and in some communities there is a prevalent fear that the last day will come some time during this year. The conjunction of the planets: the prophecies derived, as some scholars urge, from the great pyramid; the appearance in the southern hemisphere of two comets; the supposed predictions of the Bible, according to the peculiar figuring of certain interpreters of Holy Writ—have really created a veritable panic in a large number of minds. Up in Canada a large number have been preparing for the crack of doom, which was to come on the 19th. of this month (June). Not a few quit work and left their crops to fight the weeds as best they could, and took to praying and singing psalms and getting ready in a general way for the grand smash-up. One man has constructed an underground apartment into which he and his family propose to retire until the surface of the earth has been burnt over, when they will rise (Phoenix-like) from the ashes. A number of families in another locality have built a raft and loaded it with provisions, and will push out into the middle of a large lake until the fire is over.

Others have conceived of similar plans. Those, however, who had set the 19th. inst., (June) as 'the day of wrath, that dreadful day' have met with a very great but very pleasing disappointment. That day has come and passed but the old earth is here yet, and is likely so to remain for a great many hundred years."

After this, we may well ask what next?

MUCH as our American cousins are inclined to boast of the importance of everything belonging to them, they are not unmindful of the old country. The *New York Sun* gives the following interesting statistics relating to London, drawing a parallel and a contrast between it and their own metropolis:—

"The late English census shows that London has been gaining rapidly in population during the last ten years. It now contains 3,814,571 inhabitants, or 560,311 more than in 1871. Its increase was only a little over 17 per cent, and yet so vast was its population in 1871 that during the ten years it has added to that total in actual numbers more people than our thriving city of Chicago now contains, and nearly as many as are included in Brooklyn, the third city of the Union in size."

THE papers received by the incoming French mail contain many graceful tributes to the memory of the late Dean of Westminster. Probably there are but few here who have ever had the pleasure and privilege of listening to his earnest, eloquent addresses in the grand old Abbey he loved so well, but those few will fondly and sadly remember the small figure, crowned with the black skull cup, and the classic features, ashen, yet placid with the content of a well-spent life, which seemed to awe his hearers, and to add solemnity to his words. One who heard him preach only a short time before his death thus writes:—"At last the final burst of the anthem rose, and the Dean, escorted by his verger, passed from his stall up the aisle and mounted the pulpit. Dean Stanley looked very old. It was five years and more since I had seen him, and in that interval he had aged with more than ordinary rapidity. He was but 66 years of age, yet was more wintry in appearance than many a man ten years in advance of him on the great journey. Always in stature and frame much under the average measurement, he now, grey, withered and stooping, seemed quite frail, as if a puff of wind would waft him away. The voice too had lost its fibre. Though never strong or resonant, it used to be firm and melodious; it was then made husky by increasing infirmities. A great hush came over the congregation as he gave out his text. Bending over the cushion and smoothing out his rumpled MS., he, as if casually, remarked that he had preached the same sermon from the same pulpit ten years ago, and would like to preach it "once more." I believe the idea crossed the minds of many, who were thinking about the matter at all, not excluding the venerable Dean himself, that the "once more" was prophetic. The text was the historical last words of the founder of Christianity,—"Into Thy hands I commend my spirit." Was this mere coincidence, or a presentiment that his ministry, as well as his life, was drawing to a close? Who shall say?

THE *Mainichi Shinbun* has the following item:—We heard, sometime since, a rumour to the effect that the difficulty between China and Japan, in connection with the Loo-chooan affair was being revived. In case we might

have excited alarm among the people by premature reports, we have done all in our power, but have failed, to obtain a true account of the matter. It is one involving profound diplomacy and is therefore kept secret. As far as we can learn, however, the Chinese government have addressed a letter on the subject to ours and the departure for France of General Oyama, minister of the war department, has been postponed, although it was decided that he should be ambassador to that country. Another rumour is current to the effect that Mr. Inouye is about to proceed to China on an embassy. Our reporter has just informed us that Mr. Ito, and not the gentleman above-named, will undertake the mission to Peking.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* remarks:—The new criminal code and the code of procedure are to be in force from January next; some inconvenience is anticipated from enforcing these new codes, unless the new civil code be adopted at the same time. Mr. Boissonade and the committee, to whom the work of drawing the last named code has been entrusted, are said to be busily occupied in completing it but the task will not be accomplished during this year.

TELEGRAPHIC communication with the China ports is still interrupted. The repairing steamer has reached the point where the Nagasaki-Gutzlaaf cable is broken, so it may be expected that communication with Gutzlaaf and probably with Shanghai also, will be re-established to-day. The Siberian route to Europe is in working order.

THE *Hochi Shinbun* refers to a communication from Yamagata ken. It says that rice crops this season seem extraordinarily good, and are perhaps the most satisfactory since the first year of Meiji. The height of rice plants is 4 feet and a half, and each ear contains about three hundred grains; perhaps the total quantity of rice in Dewa, Oshu, Yechizen, Yetchu, and Yechigo, ready for sale, after supplying their own people, will amount to 5,000,000 koku, of which about 360,000 are to be sent to Tokio for consumption, and about 100,000 to Kioto and Osaka, all other town being supplied by their local crops. What will become of the remaining upwards of four millions koku of rice? Is this quantity to be used for saké brewing? We are very anxious to know how much is usually consumed for that purpose.

THE *Hochi Shinbun* refers to an increase of revenue of the Kaitakushi. It says that the sum of taxes on products has realised a total of 201,804,206 yen over and above the estimated amount.

IN reply to the letter of "Romulus" which appeared in our issue of the 1st. inst., the editor of the *Argus* says:—"that the dictum of "Romulus" is not *vox populi*, or even the voice of the Portuguese community; he declines to take any notice of the nonsense proclaimed by the grandson of Troas, king of the Albanians, first king of Rome."

THE *Argus* publishes a circular from the Consul for Portugal, relative to the prevalence of cholera in Kagoshima, in which he strongly recommends Portuguese subjects to abstain from visiting that district.

THE same paper, in its issue of yesterday, devotes a leading article to the subject of the proposed Portuguese club, and animadvertes in

strong terms on the "storm in a tea-kettle" which, it says, has been raised by the suggestion. Attention is also called to a supposed irregularity, it occurred in the election of a member of the committee. There were seventeen present; one candidate scored eleven votes and another eight, total nineteen. Does it not occur to our worthy contemporary that two persons, through absence of mind, or some other cause, might have voted twice? The discrepancy does not matter much; when an uneven number vote there is bound to be at least a majority of one. A tie is impossible.

MOST of our readers will remember the universal feeling of sorrow which was caused here upwards of eleven years ago by the melancholy fate of the U. S. S. *Oneida*, which vessel was run down on 24th. January 1870 by the P. & O. S. S. *Bombay* a little to the northward of the Kanonsaki light-house off Saratoga Spit. The ill-fated ship had two hundred and three officers and men on board out of whom only sixty three survived. As was said at the time by a contemporary, "nothing more touching could be conceived than the picture of that devoted vessel firing at intervals as the water gained on her, (both signal guns and rockets were discharged but to no purpose) while the only care of the band of heroes, in whose guardianship she was placed, was to save the lives of their men, and die at their posts. History has no more noble deeds than these, and if America, at that time, was plunged in grief at the loss of some of her bravest sons, she may have derived consolation from the lines which recorded with profound sorrow and admiration how nobly they died." The United States nation at least will re-echo the words of Scripture not inaptly in their case:—"their bodies are buried in peace but their name liveth for evermore." We have thought well to refer thus briefly to this sad catastrophe, because we have just received intelligence that the wreck of the *Oneida* was successfully blown up yesterday with dynamite. The task was undertaken and executed by Mr. Masuda Mankichi, an enterprising person who is well known here. Should we receive further particulars they will be published later on. We cannot refrain from expressing regret that more publicity was not given of the intended operation, as we feel sure that many would have been only too glad to have been present to witness the attempt.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* received a report from Korea last night to the effect, that a great disturbance occurred at Fusan in that country on the 18th. of August last. Our contemporary promises to give a full account of the affair to-morrow.

THE *Alebono Shinbun* announces:—Counterfeit fifty sen notes have been recently detected here and there in the provinces of Kiushu, but they are not confined to that locality as they have appeared in the capital. The authorities are endeavouring to discover from whence they emanated.

WE are informed that His Excellency Vice Admiral G. O. Willes C.B. commanding the China station is expected to arrive here on or about the 18th. or 20th. inst. in H. M. S. *Vigilant*.

THE China squadron will probably be here on the 23rd. inst. It is composed of the following ships of war:—*Albatross*, *Comus*, *Curaçoa*, *Encounter*, *Flying Fish*, *Mosquito*, *Pegasus*, *Swift* and *Zephyr*.



PUBLIC attention has frequently been called in these columns to an abuse hitherto impossible to check or punish. We allude to those combinations among buyers to defeat the real purpose of a sale by public auction, the realisation of the goods to the highest *bond fide* bidder. To correct practices of this description in England is difficult, the only form of proceeding that we are aware of being an indictment for conspiracy. The government of Japan show, however, an honest desire to put a stop to what threatened to become a grave evil; and foreign auctioneers and their constituents will learn with great satisfaction that the new Criminal Code, to come into force on the 1st January next, contains a clause punishing by imprisonment from fifteen days to three months, with or without a fine of three to fifteen yen, any attempt by force or conspiracy to interfere with the freedom of sales by public auction.

If, one of these fine mornings, we were to enter the Yokohama Medical Hall, and pretend to a knowledge of medicine so far as to dictate to the worthy proprietor of that establishment on the concoction of pills and draughts, we should probably owe it to his genial temper if we escaped ejection in summary manner. Yet there are people all the world over who, on the slightest pretext or without any pretext at all, presume to enrol themselves as members of our profession. A Rangoon contemporary, sometime since, stated that he had received a visit from one who had become the editor of a paper on the strength of his having once been a schoolmaster, and described the individual as a specimen of the "curious crowd who eke out a precarious existence on the outskirts of journalism." The evidence given by self-styled "journalists," now and again, in the London Police Courts is far from uninteresting. There is a class of persons who, from ignorance, want of energy, or vice, are unable to earn a livelihood as clerks or petty tradesmen, and who, unwilling to describe themselves as "gentlemen of no occupation," which in most cases may be translated "loafers," assume the title of journalist, deeming it sufficiently mysterious to be respectable. These men have really no connection with the press, and when asked as to the papers to which they contribute are at a loss to name even one. May be they have sent a small and unimportant paragraph to some London daily, and then they ever after assert that though they are "not exactly on the staff" they are frequent contributors to such and such a well-known newspaper and thus impose upon credulous people. Now, it is well-known that legitimate members of the press, though they are by no means ashamed of the generic name of journalists, rarely designate themselves as such, and if not sufficiently well known by name, are always able to state the office they hold. So universally does this hold good, that a man who simply styles himself a "journalist" may, in nine cases out of ten be looked upon as a loafer, and be treated as such.

THE *Mai Nichi Shinbun* gives an account of a successful thief. In Osaka, the number of jinrikisha stolen during the half year ended July 30th. was very great, and the police office there has 4,974 cases of jinrikisha thefts recorded in its books during this period. The theft was so successfully committed that, until recently, the robber was not arrested. The bold hero was at last captured and, when

on trial, confessed that he had stolen about ten thousand jinrikisha and sold had them after modifying the colour or design of painting.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* refers to the report of a disturbance in Korea, which it promised to give to-day. The following is an abstract:—Since April last, foreign trade at Fusan in Korea has been daily declining and our residents at that port have begun to feel the effects of this stagnation of commerce, more especially as they are all of a poor class, with the exception of 32 or 33 persons who alone can be called by the name of merchants. Their sufferings have been very great. Amongst others, brokers are in the deepest distress and are therefore naturally seditious. A great disturbance took place on the 18th. of August last. On that day, four Japanese, three of whom were brokers, visited Kiuhō in Tokunegi, passing over the treaty limit, for the purpose of settling some monetary transaction. Whilst thus engaged, a quarrel arose between them and some Koreans; in accordance with the habits of Tsushima people (they belonged to Tsushima) who appeal rather to strength than to reason, they knocked down the Koreans on the spot. This outrage brought together a large multitude of natives, who attacked the Japanese and seriously wounded them, but they were able to return in safety to Fusan. They were much sympathized with by other brokers who took to arms in order to avenge their fellow countrymen; they advanced to Kiuhō where the outrage had taken place. A lawless mob, about 300 in number, proceeded to the vicinity of Kiuhō in spite of great exertions on the part of the consul and police force. At this place they were subdued at last, their leader was arrested, and their weapons taken away. Thus order was restored, but the relations between both people must have been injured by such an action.

THE *Choya Shinbun* says that this summer is extraordinarily hot throughout the country; in Kumamoto the thermometer showed 105° on the 3rd. and 4th. instant.

THE *Hochi Shinbun* heard recently that the head of a certain government department, a kwazoku who ranks amongst senators, and a private gentleman who formerly held a high post under government, with many other officials, have decided to urge His Majesty the Mikado to revoke the permission granted for the Kaitakushi transaction. It thinks that Mr. Hayakawa, a secretary of the home department, who left Tokio for the north some days ago for the purpose of meeting His Majesty the Mikado, and advising him to stop the transaction, may be a member of this party.

WE learn by telegram that His Majesty the Mikado arrived at Mororan at 5.50 p.m. on the 4th. instant, and left that place by steamer at 7 a.m. on the following day, for Mori.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* has the following items:—On the 3rd ult. we referred to a new civil code which is now being drawn up and stated that it would not be completed during this year. We are now informed that the code in question contains between 2,400 and 2,500 articles, of which only 500 are framed, and even these, as yet, are nothing but literal translations from the original. Therefore if the whole are drawn and carefully examined and revised 4 or 5 years will be required for completion of the work. It will certainly not be in force before the 18th. or 19th. year of Meiji. M. Boissade and the committee are busily engaged in their arduous task.

## Law Reports.

IN THE U. S. CONSULAR-GENERAL COURT AT  
KANAGAWA, JAPAN.

Before T. B. VAN BUREN, Esq., Consul-General.

Tuesday, August 30th., 1881.

M. H. H. RASPE vs. WM. COPELAND.

Plaintiff, as sole agent for the sale of the Flensburg Brewery Co.'s beer, charges defendant with having fraudulently attached labels, similar to those of the Flensburg's Co.'s "Stock Beer" to bottles containing beer not brewed by the said company, and thereby causing the plaintiff considerable damage and also materially injuring the reputation of the said company's "Stock Beer." Plaintiff therefore petitioned that the defendant be enjoined from attaching such labels in future, and that he be ordered to pay \$500 damages, and the costs of this suit.

In answer, defendant acknowledges that a few labels similar to those of the Flensburg Brewery Company, were put on bottles containing his beer, but denies that this was done with the intent of injuring the said company, or that he has sold the said beer since the commencement of 1880, as alleged by plaintiff; fails to see how, through any action of his, the plaintiff as agent of the above named company can have suffered loss, but is perfectly willing to abstain from attaching any such labels in future.

Mr. Weiller appeared for the complainant.

Mr. Weiller after reading the petition and answer said the only course open to the plaintiff to obtain redress after receiving the answer was to prosecute.

He then called Shibuya Kojiro who was sworn and said:—I am an importer of foreign goods, and reside at No. 107 in the foreign settlement. I deal in beer. I have bought beer from Mr. Copeland. I cannot tell exactly whether I have had beer with a label exactly the same as the one produced, as I cannot read English, but I think I have had some nearly the same. I have bought beer from Mr. Copeland with white labels on the bottles, and six small and six large bottles bearing labels similar to the one produced. I have five bottles of beer at my shop, which I bought from Mr. Copeland.

The court ordered the witness to bring two of these bottles at 2 p.m.

I cannot tell exactly when I bought the beer from Mr. Copeland, but I think it was during the month of July last. I don't know where Mr. Copeland got the bottles.

Mr. Weiller objected to a question put to witness by the court as to whether the witness sold any bottles to Mr. Copeland. His Honour overruled the objection on the ground that it might have some bearing on the question of costs.

To the Court:—I did not sell any bottles to Mr. Copeland.

Wakamatsuya Kitagata warned said:—I am a wine and beer merchant. I have bought beer with a label similar to the one produced, from Mr. Copeland. It was on the 30th of June last I think.

To the Court:—I bought twenty four bottles from him. I do not know where he got the bottles.

To the defendant:—I have not sold any of the bottles.

Suzuki Hamajiro, warned, stated:—I am an employé of the plaintiff. I went to the "Spring Valley Brewery" to buy beer, and

I bought twenty-four bottles with a label the same as the one in Court. I paid for it, and got a receipt.

Mr. Weiller produced a receipt and handed it into Court.

That is the receipt I got for the money.

To the defendant:—I am sure I bought twenty-four bottles, and that is the receipt for them. The bottle in court is one of those purchased by me of the defendant.

Mr. Weiller objected to the defendant asking witness whether the bottle was of the same shape, as being irrelevant.

His Honour said the defendant had a right to examine the witness. The evidence, His Honour designated as being of the loosest character. The witness swears to having bought twenty-four bottles of beer and in evidence produces a receipt for one dozen.

To the defendant:—My master's bottles are the same as the one in court. I can recognize my master's bottles by the shape.

A small bottle was produced which the witness said was not the same as his master's, but upon the question being repeated he said it was the same. Asked to explain he answered that he meant, that the beer was different but the bottle was the same.

To the court:—I was sent to Mr. Copeland's brewery for the beer by my master. I don't remember the exact date, but it was in June. Some of the beer I bought from Mr. Copeland was drunk and some kept.

Emil. F. J. Popp was called and sworn:—I am in the firm of M. Raspe of Yokohama. We import the Flensburg Brewery Co.'s beer. The company's beer is distinguished from other beers by a trade-mark on the bottles, the same as the one on the smaller bottle in court. We are the sole importers of this beer. The beer in the larger bottle is as far as I can tell, not the same as that imported by us, the colour being darker. The label is the same, but the seal is similar to that on the bottles of beer imported by Messrs. Ahrens & Co. I sent my servant to buy the beer, and I am certain the bottle of beer I took to Mr. Weiller is one of those I bought from Mr. Copeland. My object in sending to Mr. Copeland for the beer was to have evidence that he was selling his own beer in our bottles, such having been reported to us.

No more questions being asked, Mr. Meyerdirks was called and being sworn, said:—I am an employé of the firm of Ahrens & Co. I know the "Stock Beer" made by the Flensburg Brewery Company. When I was in the country lately I was offered beer marked with a false label. The label was the same as the Flensburg Brewery Co.'s. I refused to buy it as I knew it was false, but I took the label off in order to show it to Mr. Raspe. I also saw some falsely labeled "Pilsener Beer" which is sold by Messrs. Ahrens & Co. I did not see any at the other places I visited. The shape of the smaller bottle in Court is the same as those sold by Mr. Raspe. The larger bottle is different in shape.

To the defendant:—I do not know where the beer came from.

This closing the petitioner's case the defendant Copeland was sworn and stated:—I am the defendant in this cause. The labels on the bottles complained of, were brought to the brewery by Japanese, who requested me to put them on bottles of my own beer. The bottles upon which I put them are not the same as those containing the "Stock Beer." I sell my beer in variously shaped bottles. Since Mr. Raspe complained to me about this, I have repeatedly refused to put on any

more labels for Japanese, who have come to me with that request.

To the plaintiff:—I have been in the Brewing business for eleven years. I have several names for my beer, but never called it "Stock Beer." The receipt put in by you for one dozen beer is correct; your boy got it from me. When he came he asked me particularly for a receipt. He asked to see the beer I had but as I refused, he asked for "Stock Beer," of which I gave him one dozen.

This closed the case and Mr. Weiller rose and addressed the court. In the course of his remarks he dwelt very strongly upon the injury done to foreign importers through the continual falsifications of trade-marks perpetrated by the Japanese, and which resulted in severe loss to the former. He asked how foreigners could possibly appeal for redress if one of themselves were allowed to do the same thing, without a punishment more or less severe. Mr. Weiller cited the consul-general's very marked opinion on this subject as given in the consular trade returns. As to the defendant's plea upon which he had laid some stress, namely, that the bottles were not of the same shape as those used by the Flensburg Brewery Company, could not be entertained, as it would, even had he merely put the labels on a cask, have constituted a falsification. On the question of reciprocity of the German and American laws, Mr. Weiller said the laws on trade-marks in Germany were much more severe than those of America, the punishment being a fine of from m. 150 to m. 5,000 and imprisonment not exceeding six months. It was not the object of his client to make money out of this matter, the small amount claimed placing him above suspicion of such an object, but simply to protect himself and the company he represented from such injury in the future.

His Honour said that whatever the intent was, the effect was defraud the public.

Mr. Weiller further cited several authorities on the question of damages.

His Honour reserved judgment, which he said would be given in writing, remarking at the same time that he not only adhered to the opinions he had expressed in his support and cited by Mr. Weiller, but endorsed those expressed by that gentlemen on the iniquitousness of the falsification of trade marks, but was not decided as to the question of damages. In his opinion the chief object of the plaintiff is protection in the future.

The court then adjourned.

Thursday, 1st September, 1881.

His Honour said the case had been reopened at the court's own motion to hear further testimony as to the proprietorship of the trade mark.

E. F. J. Popp recalled and examined:—I stated in my testimony that our house was the sole importer of this "Stock Beer;" since however, I have learned that this beer has been imported by other firms; the last consignment was made to a house in Kobe in March 1880, but since then we have been the sole importers. We sell the beer on account of the brewery and have taken up indents for them; we also sell on our own account. We are, I believe, their agents, although we have no documents to prove that this is the case, but we have sent for such, and also for power of attorney. I am a German, but I did not know, and never heard of the Flensburg Brewery Company's "Stock Beer" at home; but I believe they are the sole pro-

prietors of the trade mark, a copy of which is in court. This beer is well known in the east, and the demand for it is very large, more especially in Singapore.

Mr. Weiller asked whether since the case had been re-opened, His Honour would care to notice a circumstance which had only come under his, Mr. Weiller's, notice since the cause was tried, namely that the corks with which the defendant had sealed the bottles were falsely stamped with the intention of deceiving the public.

Judgment reserved.

#### JUDGMENT.

September 2nd 1881.

In this proceeding the plaintiff for himself and as agent for the "Flensburg Brewery Company" of Hamburg, Germany, seeks to restrain the defendant from the use of a certain trade mark, the alleged property of the said company, and to recover damages for the alleged illegal use of it by said defendant heretofore.

The answer admits a limited use of a label bearing a nearly similar trade mark to that claimed by the Flensburg Co., but denies any intent on the part of defendant to injury plaintiff's business, and expresses an entire willingness that an injunction issue restraining him from the further use of the said mark.

The evidence shows the use by defendant of the trade mark labels on a few dozen bottles of beer. The defendant testified that the labels were brought to him by Japanese, and were placed upon bottles by request of such persons. These bottles were different in size and shape to those used by plaintiffs company, and the beer was a darker color. The label also is somewhat different, but the latter is so nearly similar to the original as to deceive and defraud the public.

An action of this character I believe has never been brought in Japan, and several important questions are involved that demand careful consideration. A United States Statute was adopted in 1870, and has been since amended, providing for the registration of trade marks, and prescribing penalties for their violation.

This Statute was by the Supreme Court of the United States in 1879 declared to be unconstitutional. The right then to the exclusive use of a trade mark, if any exists, must be found in the common law, and it is upon this that the plaintiff relies. Such a right the common law recognizes, and its violation may be prohibited and punished.

In this case, it is in evidence that the plaintiff is the agent of the "Flensburg Brewery Co." a corporation existing and carrying on the manufacture of beer in Hamburg, Germany, and is the sole importer of such beer in Japan as such agent and on his own account. And it is also proven that said "Flensburg Brewery Co." is the sole and exclusive owner of a trade mark consisting of a paper label in red and black bearing the words "Flensburg Brewery. Stock Beer. Bottled at the Brewery" and a peculiar device in white upon a black shield—and that said company had used said label or trade mark for a long time, and their beer had established for itself an excellent reputation and was largely sold in the east. No authority was produced from the Brewery Company authorizing the plaintiff to commence actions in their behalf on account of the violation of their trade mark, but it appears to be well settled that a merchant having the exclusive right to sell an article bearing a certain

"trade mark," is entitled to "proceed in his own name" against another who appropriates said trade mark without authority. (Sec. 2 *Parsons on Contracts* No. 257 and note.)

The petition alleges that the imitation and use of the label and trade mark referred to by the defendant was done by him fraudulently and with intent to deceive. This, as has been seen, the defendant denies in his answer, and in his testimony.

It would seem as if the use by a Brewery of a trade mark belonging to a foreign Brewery Company and used to designate a beer well known in this community, could scarcely happen without the intent to injure the sale of said beer, by the substitution of other beer in its stead, and to reap the benefit of the transaction by manufacturing beer and selling it as such foreign beer. But in this case I am led to believe, from the evidence, that, so far as the defendant is concerned, the proceeding was a careless and not a malicious one, into which he allowed himself to be drawn by the solicitations of some Japanese customers.

I do not think however it is necessary to establish such fraudulent intent by evidence. Formerly when courts of law and equity were distinct tribunals, in an action for the violation of a trade mark brought in a court of law, it was held necessary that such proof should be made, but as this court possesses both law and equity powers I am of the opinion that the evidence is fully sufficient in this case to warrant me in granting the prayer of the petition so far as to enjoin the defendant from any further use of the trade mark in question.

During the progress of this action it has more than once occurred to me to enquire what status the plaintiff or the "Flensburger Brewery Co." would have in Germany as the exclusive owner of this trade mark. Or supposing the plaintiff should bring an action here against one of his own countrymen, what would be the result? In other words what law, if any exists in Germany, as to the protection of trade marks, and if any has the plaintiff or the "Flensburger Brewery Co." complied with such law so as to entitle either to its benefits. If not it would seem to be unjust that a citizen of the United States should at the suit of a German subject be prohibited from doing what another German subject here could do with impunity.

But upon reflection I have concluded to ignore such considerations.

A treaty exists between Germany and the United States by which it is agreed that the subjects of Germany in the United States and the citizens of the United States in Germany shall be alike protected in both countries, and I shall assume that such protection is fully granted.

But aside from and without such Treaty if the ownership of a trade mark is recognized by the common law such ownership is entitled to protection at the suit of a citizen or foreigner.

I have said this is the first action brought to my knowledge in Japan for the protection of this peculiar property. I hope it may prove a step towards a full recognition of the right of such protection throughout the Empire.

As a consular officer I have taken occasion heretofore to call the attention of my government to the gross abuses practised upon Americans and others by Japanese in their piracy of trade marks, by which not only have the owners of such devices been defrauded, but grave injuries have been and

are inflicted upon the people of the country. Labels of all kinds, and more especially of such goods as have commended themselves by a world wide reputation for excellence, are constantly manufactured in Tokio, and vile and hurtful compounds are, by virtue of such labels, fraudulently vended as genuine. It is full time a stop should be put to this nefarious practice which, as I have said, is not only fraudulent but dangerous to the health of the community.

As to the damages in this particular case the evidence discloses none.

The issue of the false labels seems to have been very limited.

A rule has obtained in such cases, when no specific damage is proved, to award, as damages, the profit on all the sales fraudulently made by the defendant (*Sedgwick on the measures of damages* p. 728 n.); but in this case this profit, which must have been very small has not been proved. The chief purpose doubtless of the plaintiff is to establish his exclusive right to the trade mark in question, by judicial decision, and this is obtained without the recovery of any large amount as damages.

The judgment of the court is therefore that the defendant pay to the plaintiff the sum of ten cents as damages, for the illegal use of his trade mark, and that he, said defendant be, and he is hereby enjoined and restrained from the further use of the said label and trade mark of the "Flensburger Brewery Co." or any imitation thereof by which the public may be deceived, and the said Brewery Company or the plaintiff defrauded. Disbursements and costs of court to be paid by defendant.

THOS. B. VAN BUREN.

U. S. Consul-General and  
Judge of the Court.

IN THE TOKIO JOTO SAIBANSHO.

#### PETITION (Amended).

FRANCISCO DA ROZA, a Portuguese subject, residing at No. 122, Bluff, Yokohama, Plaintiff; represented by G. W. HILL, his counsel and attorney, of No. 58, Yokohama,

Against

THE IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN. The Departments of the Government, whose action is complained of, are—THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT and THE JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT, Defendant.

To the HONOURABLE COURT,—

The petition of Francisco da Roza, the above named plaintiff, respectfully demands and claims from the defendant, the Imperial Government of Japan, the sum of sixty-one thousand four hundred and eighty-one Mexican dollars and twenty cents with interest thereon from the 13th day of June 1881, at ten per centum (10%) per annum, for loss, damage, and injury suffered by the plaintiff, by reason of the wrongful action of the defendant, by which the plaintiff has been prevented from enforcing the recovery of a debt due the plaintiff from a Japanese subject, one Goto Shojiro, of Tokio, Japan: and by which he, the plaintiff, has been put to great expense, loss, trouble, inconvenience, and damage: and the particulars of the said wrongful action of the defendant are stated as follows:—

1.—The plaintiff had a just and valid claim against Goto Shojiro named above who was at the date of September 22nd., 1880, indebted to the plaintiff in a sum amounting

to 62,000 yen, and that the indebtedness was of a character described and provided for in Article VI. and Article VII. of the existing treaty between Portugal and Japan.

2.—The plaintiff brought his said claim to the notice of the vice-consul for Portugal at Yokohama, in September, 1880, and the said vice-consul for Portugal did on the 23rd. of September, 1880, pursuant to the provisions of the said treaty, bring the said claim to the attention of the Japanese authorities, that is to say: before the Tokio Court of the Judicial Department of the Imperial Government of Japan; erected and empowered by said Government to hear and adjudicate such claims—by a petition of the said plaintiff dated the 22nd. day of September, 1880, which said petition stated the facts and particulars as to the said claim, and demanded that the said Goto Shojiro should be compelled by the said court to pay to the plaintiff the debt justly due him as aforesaid.

3.—The said Goto Shojiro made an answer in said cause denying said indebtedness, and the cause came on for hearing in said court before judge Takeshiwo Mabashiro, and assistant judge Kodama of said court, on the 12th day of November 1880; and the hearing of said cause was continued and postponed from time to time until the 28th day of April 1881:—The plaintiff and his counsel attending the court on twenty-four occasions during that period.

4.—At the time when said action was begun the defendant Goto Shojiro was the proprietor of the Takashima coal mines, a very valuable property: holding the same under a lease or contract with the Imperial Government of Japan, which said property was of a value sufficient, out of which could have been satisfied the plaintiff's claim in the action. That there was at that time due from the said Goto Shojiro to the Imperial Government of Japan, and to the Finance or Treasury Department thereof, under said contract or lease and otherwise, a large sum of money, say 350,000 yen; and that during the progress of the plaintiff's said action against Goto Shojiro brought as aforesaid, he the said Goto Shojiro, in order to avoid payment of the plaintiff's claim, and other debts; and in order the better to secure the payment of the amount due to the Imperial Government of Japan as aforesaid, did, with the knowledge and consent, and at the express instigation and instance of the Imperial Government and of the Finance Department thereof on or about the 22nd April 1881 assign, transfer, and turn over to one Iwasaki Yataro the said Takashima coal mines; in trust to be held and worked for the benefit of, and in order to secure the payment of the debt to, the Imperial Government due as aforesaid and certain other debts of the said Goto Shojiro and for the use and benefit of the said Goto Shojiro: whereby the rights of the plaintiff and his means of procuring a satisfaction of his claim against the said Goto Shojiro, were put in jeopardy.

5.—The plaintiff learning that the defendant contemplated disposing of his property as aforesaid, did long before the said transfer, give due and ample notice and warning to the government of Japan of the defendant's intention so to dispose of his property: and warning the government that the plaintiff would hold the government liable for loss sustained by him suffered by reason of any such transfer being permitted to be consummated before the said plaintiff's claim was determined and enforced against the defendant; yet, notwithstanding that notice and warning and notwithstanding ample time

elapsed after such warning and notice, and before such transfer was consummated in which the plaintiff's claim could have been determined and enforced, the said court so delayed the proceedings in said action as to permit and enable the said Goto Shojiro to complete the said transfer and assignment of his said property.

6.—Many of the writings and documents necessary to the plaintiff as evidence and proof of the plaintiff's claim, were when said action was being heard, in the possession and under the control of the defendant Goto Shojiro and other persons; and many of the facts necessary to be proved to the court to establish the plaintiff's claim were within the knowledge of the said Goto Shojiro, and other witnesses named to the court by the plaintiff. The plaintiff, in order to exhibit such documents and writing to the court, made frequent and earnest demand of the court to compel the production of such documents and papers, but the court as to many of such papers and documents failed and refused to comply with that just demand by the plaintiff.

The plaintiff in order to elicit the facts necessary to establish his claim, made frequent and earnest demand of the court that it should compel and secure the attendance of witnesses to be examined on the part of the plaintiff, but the court in many instances failed and refused to comply with that just demand.

As to one of the witnesses so required to be examined by the plaintiff to wit Wuriu Shin whose attendance the plaintiff asked the court to secure, the court demanded from the plaintiff the deposit of a sum of money, to wit the sum of seventy-three yen and eighty sen (yen 73.80) as travelling expenses of said witness; and the said sum of yen 73.80 was deposited by the plaintiff with the court as demanded; yet the court never enforced the attendance of the said witness, or gave any reason for not doing so; and the said sum of yen 73.80 was retained by the court.

The plaintiff did for the purpose of examining him as a witness procure the attendance of the defendant Goto Shojiro on the 10th. March, 1881, and thereupon proceeded to examine him as to facts within his knowledge and continued to so examine the defendant on the 10th., 12th., 16th., and 25th. days of March, 1881. The defendant declined and refused to reply to many of the questions put to him, and the plaintiff thereupon demanded of the court that he should be compelled to answer; yet, the court failed and refused to comply with that just demand of the plaintiff, whereupon the plaintiff, being unable to procure the necessary evidence or to elicit answers from the witness; declined to proceed further; and on the 9th. April 1881, demanded that all papers and instruments of evidence placed before the court be delivered to the plaintiff; and gave notice to the Imperial Government of Japan that it would be held liable for the consequences of its action in the premises.

7.—The government refused to deliver the said papers and documents as demanded, whereupon the plaintiff on the said 28th. April 1881 gave notice that he the said plaintiff would hold the said government liable for such wrongful detention in damages of five hundred mexican dollars (\$500) per day, during the period of such detention; yet notwithstanding the government did wrongfully detain and keep the said papers and documents from the plaintiff until the 2nd day of June 1881,

8.—During the pendency of said action, on or about the 15th April 1881, and after many sessions of the court; and after much testimony had been taken, the judge in charge of the case in the said court was removed and relieved of the charge of same, and another judge, who had heard none of the testimony previously given at the trial was, without consultation with the plaintiff, substituted in his place and the judge so substituted, that is to say, judge Kosugi Nawayoshi thereafter presided at the hearing on the 22nd and 28th April, in the place of the former judge Takeshiwo Matashiro: and the court thereafter on or about the 1st June, 1881, dismissed the said action.

9.—The government of Japan has failed to fulfil the duties imposed by the treaty between Japan and Portugal; and has by the wrongful acts above recited, and by its neglect to use its power and authority to bring the defendant Goto Shojiro to justice, and to enforce the recovery of the plaintiff's claim, caused the plaintiff the loss, injury, and damage demanded in this petition.

10.—The plaintiff has used every endeavour to prosecute his claim against Goto Shojiro, and to enforce the payment of the same by him, and has made all efforts to procure in the court the evidence necessary to prove his said claim, but has been prevented from doing so by the wrongful action of the Imperial Government in its said court at Tokio. The loss, damage, and injury suffered by the plaintiff by the said wrongful action of the government of Japan are as follows:—

1st.—The amount of the claim of the plaintiff against Goto Shojiro at the date of the commencement of the action in Tokio Court yen 62,000 (sixty two thousand yen).

2nd.—Interest on that sum at the rate of (10 per cent.) ten per cent. per annum from that date to the 13th day of June 1881, yen 4,477.77.

3rd.—The amount demanded of the plaintiff as the travelling expenses of the witness Wuriu Shin and deposited with the court, yen 73.80. The sums above named amount together to yen 66,551.57 which on the 13th. June, 1881, was equal to Dollars Mexican 41,081.20.

4th.—Plaintiff's expenses of himself, his counsel and assistant in the ineffectual endeavour to procure an adjudication of his case in the Tokio court as aforesaid and attendance there on twenty-four occasions, Dollars Mexican 2,400.

5th.—Plaintiff's damage by the wrongful detention by the said Tokio court of the papers, documents, and property of the plaintiff after demand made for them as aforesaid from the 28th April, 1881, to 2nd June, 1881. Thirty-six day, \$18,000. The aggregate amount to the sum of Mexican dollars 61,481.20 and the plaintiff demands from the government of Japan the payment of the said sum of Mexican Dollars 61,481.20 with interest thereon at the rate of ten per cent. (10 %) per annum from the 13th day of June 1881 until paid and also payment of the costs and expenses incurred in this action.

F. DA ROZA, Plaintiff.

GEO. WALLACE HILL,

Counsel and Attorney for the Plaintiff,  
Address No. 58, Yokohama.

Yokohama, Japan, July 11th, 1881.

The witnesses whom the plaintiff desires to examine, and the evidence required by him to be produced at the trial are designated

below; and the plaintiff respectfully requests that the court will take all necessary measures to procure and enforce the attendance of each of the persons named, and to secure the production of all the evidence described on the day of the hearing of this cause.

#### WITNESSES.

- 1st.—Goto Shojiro, a Japanese subject, residing at Takanawa, Minami-machi, Tokio.
- 2nd.—Iwasaki Yataro, a Japanese subject residing at Tokio, and President of the Mitsui Bishi Mail S.S. Company.
- 3rd.—Sano Tsunetami, a Japanese subject and Minister of Finance Department of the Imperial government and residing at Tokio.
- 4th.—Nakahara Kuninosuke, a Japanese subject residing at Tokio, (his office address is No. 46 Foreign Settlement, Yokohama).
- 5th.—W. B. Walter, a British subject residing No. 152, Bluff, Yokohama.

#### WRITINGS.

1st.—The record of the cause brought in the Tokio Court entitled *F. da Roza versus Goto Shojiro*, and all papers, documents, and writings, and each and every of them in the custody of said Tokio Court and received, produced, issued, or used in the course of the trial of said cause.

2nd.—The original Books of Account of Goto Shojiro, and of his company known as the "Tankosha" which show the accounts between the plaintiff and Goto Shojiro, and between the plaintiff and the said "Tankosha" in the years 1874 to 1878, and showing what was due the plaintiff from Goto Shojiro and the "Tankosha" in the last named year.

GEO. WALLACE HILL.

Counsel for Plaintiff.

Yokohama, Japan, July 11th, 1881.

#### ANSWER.

14th Meiji, No. 57.

F. DA ROZA, Portuguese, No. 122, Bluff, Yokohama. Plaintiff.

G. W. HILL, American, No. 58, Yokohama. Counsel for Plaintiff.

The principal points in this case are that during the pendency of an action in the Tokio Saibansho court, by this plaintiff F. da Roza against Goto Shojiro the plaintiff suffered great loss by reason of the refusal of the judge in charge of that action to comply with the plaintiff's demand for the citation of witnesses, and to compel the production of documents considered by the plaintiff to be important in proving his case. And on that ground the plaintiff has brought this claim for damages against the Finance and the Judicial departments of the Imperial government of Japan.

Upon the trial of any action in a Japanese court it depends upon the opinion of the judge whether evidence demanded and desired by either plaintiff or defendant and deemed to be important to his case shall or shall not be taken. If a party feels injured by any decision of the judge refusing to take evidence deemed by such party to be important and thinks he has thus been prevented from succeeding in the action he has the right of appeal to the higher court; but the plaintiff in the case of Da Roza against Goto Shojiro has no reason to claim damages against the Finance and the Judicial departments because those departments are the wrong parties and are not connected with that cause.

As therefore for the reasons the given



plaintiff has no cause of action the petition is on that ground returned.

(Sealed) IMAMURA NOBUYUKI,  
ANDŌ TEIKAKU.

Dated 20th day August, 1881.

The articles of the Judicial Code Confering jurisdiction on the court and under which the action is instituted are the following.

Series K No. 5.

It is hereby notified that all claims made against the Government of Japan, In, Sho, Shi, Fu, Ken (departments and divisions) will be for the present heard and tried in the local Superior Court (Joto Saibansho).

(Signed) OKI KIYONIN,  
Minister of Justice

29th. May, 1875.

No. 4571.

It is hereby notified that it will be necessary for persons who prosecute claims against the Government of Japan to designate which department of the government is complained of in their action.

(Signed) OKI KIYONIN,  
Minister of Justice.

6th. March, 1878.

Application to set the cause for hearing.

JOTO SAIBANSHO, TOKIO.

The plaintiff respectfully shows to said court.

The plaintiff on the 23rd. August received through the acting consul for Portugal a document in the above cause said to be a "dismissal" of the petition, and the receipt of the same was acknowledged by the plaintiff on the 26th. August.

The amended petition was forwarded to the court on the 15th. July, so that a period of forty-one days elapsed before the document described was received by the plaintiff. The plaintiff has heretofore believed that thirty days was the period limited for answering in a cause.

The document received from the court on the 23rd. August has now been translated for the plaintiff, and is found to be in the nature of a demurrer to the petition made on behalf of the Imperial Government by officers of one of its departments.

The plaintiff desires that the demurrer be heard and argued as soon as convenient.

If the Imperial Government elects to have the action proceed, and be disposed of without any answer to the petition then the plaintiff is ready for that course. He is prepared either for the hearing and argument of the demurrer, or to enter upon the trial of the cause and produce his evidence at once.

The plaintiff therefore respectfully demands that a day be fixed for the hearing at an early date.

F. DA ROZA, Plaintiff,  
Per G. W. HILL, His Counsel.

Yokohama, August 29th, 1881.

Friday, 2nd. September, 1881.

F. DA ROZA vs. THE IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT  
OF JAPAN.

(Buling on application for hearing.)

This application, being made after the dismissal of the case, is one that cannot be argued and heard again in this Joto Saibansho. It is therefore dismissed.

(Signed) IWAMURA NOBUYUKI, } Judges.  
( " ) ANDŌ TEIKAKU, }

[Seal] TOKIO JOTO SAIBANSHO.

## OUTRAGE BY CHINESE AGAINST FOREIGNERS AND FOREIGN PROPERTY.

(Foochow Herald.)

On Friday last the 12th. August a scene of unusual hostility on the part of the Chinese of this place towards the foreign community was manifested by the assault of two foreigners and a partial destruction of the recreation ground, by a mob of Chinese. As far as we can glean, the cause of the disturbance was as follows:

It appears that the natives living here in the settlement were informed (?), or rather a rumour was circulated, that His Excellency, the new Governor, Chin Yü Ying, was going with His Excellency the Viceroy to pay an official visit to the Arsenal, at Pagoda Anchorage, and that, upon their return, the former official would visit the new recreation ground and race course. The idea that so exalted a personage as the governor was to visit the recreation ground was sufficient of itself to cause a large crowd of people to congregate at the place. Before going further, it will be well to mention here that the Chinese villagers in the neighbourhood of the Teng Hillock, having some time ago received orders to refund to the Rev. Mr. Stewart the sum paid by that gentleman for the purchase of the land known as the Kiu Kang-to, the *literati* went among the villagers to collect the requisite amount, but as several of the people living in the neighbourhood receded from their promises, the amount collected was not sufficient to refund the price originally paid by Mr. Stewart. The Chinese, having these facts before them, agreed to exchange some other pieces of land, lying in close proximity to the race course, for the piece formerly purchased by the reverend gentlemen. This they informed the so-called Board of Foreign Intercourse, which body deputized two of their number (*Wei Yüan*), named respectively Cheng Hsün Chio and Chang Hong Shu to inspect the land. These two officials were en route for the recreation ground, and when the native populace saw them coming towards them, thought they were the "advance guard" of His Excellency the Governor, and, seeing two of the foreign residents upon the ground, they began to pelt them with mud and dirt, and boot at them, these two gentlemen having to make their way off the ground the best way they could. This occurred at about five o'clock in the afternoon. Not satisfied with driving the foreigners off the ground, the mob proceeded to tear up the rails surrounding the race course, and use them in destroying the newly made turf, etc. At this moment the firing of guns, denoting the return of the Viceroy from Pagoda, (the Governor did not go down to the Arsenal,) tended greatly to increase the excitement, and coupled with the information (?) furnished by two of the Yamen runners of the Min Magistrate, who were stationed at the temple close to Mr. Fry's residence, that the *Futai* was really coming, the fury of the mob knew no bounds. The crowd did not disperse until dark, and not until they had done a great deal of damage.

The honorary secretary of the recreation ground communicated the facts of the outrage to the foreign consuls the following morning, and the matter was at once represented to the high provincial authorities. The consular body took immediate steps to have the matter adjusted in a manner satisfactory to the European residents of the

place. The British and French consuls wrote in to the authorities on the following day and Mr. Wingate both in his capacity as United States consul and as Acting German consul wrote on the Monday following. That a good result has arisen from such joint consular representation will be seen by the following proclamation which has been issued by the authorities, although the report was circulated that the new Governor approved of the action of the mob.

### PROCLAMATION.

Pong, the Min Magistrate, issues this notification for the information of the people.

Whereas (it has been found that) the race course ground was purchased by my predecessor, who acted under the orders of the high authorities, and that the same was leased out to foreigners under a 20 years lease, for the purpose of making a race course. For the leasing of which, an agreement had been entered into and made out accordingly, and in which (a clause was inserted that) the rent (for the ground) was to be annually paid; beyond this there is nothing further of an (offensive) nature in its midst, as also it does not interfere with the nearest fields, gardens, huts or graves, therefore peace was there and then established (between foreigners and Chinese).

The doing of all this does not in the least concern you the inhabitants (of the place).

It has, upon enquiry, been brought to my notice that there is a class of vicious people, who have trumped up false stories by spreading unfounded rumours, and have thus deluded the ignorant people and filled their minds with suspicions, whereby disturbance has been created. Such a matter, when spoken of, deserves but contempt, therefore it is proper for me to issue this notification, which I now fully make known to you all. For this I have to inform you the inhabitants and men of the place, so that you must know that the purchase of the land and the leasing of the same were acts done by the officials, furthermore the agreement for the rent and the time of the lease have been clearly made out, and there are no complications amongst it, wherefore, in order that you are not to be misled (by such vicious people), you all must not pay attention to such rumours, for which you all must not make much a do about nothing (hidden expression of the Min Magistrate, i. e. should not believe what the people were saying that the new *Futai* is coming to see the recreation ground) for, by believing such you will bring punishment upon yourselves, so, it is necessary that you shall all peaceably pursue your calling; furthermore it is necessary that every man has to maintain, and keep within, the boundary of his own land.

Any person or persons venturing to purposely act against this, so as to create disturbance, shall, without leniency, be rigorously dealt with.

Let every one obey this and do not act against this purposely issued notification.

Dated the 20th. day of the 7th. Moon in the 7th. year of Kwang-Su (14th. August 1881).

Translated by

G. MINCHIN.

Recently at Peking an English couple amused themselves by being married in complete Chinese attire. The bride wore a jacket of pale blue satin brocade and underskirt of dark satin embroidered with blue flowers; hair à la *Chinoise*. A prune colored jacket and blue trowsers, with a *touchong* and Chinese cap and shoes was the festive attire of the bridegroom.

Thursday and Friday last (11th. and 12th. Aug.) were the hottest days which we have experienced during the entire summer. The thermometer, showed 95, 96, and 97 degrees of heat in the shade. The barometer was also unusually low and every signs of an approaching typhoon was visible. Barometer low, thermometer high, and the atmosphere very dull and oppressive. The barometer went down to 29.50 on Friday (Aug. 12th.) afternoon. The following day a heavy thunder storm broke over the settlement and at the anchorage, the rain coming down in torrents, and there was every indication that the weather was far worse up country. Monday (August 15th.) last proved the truth of these indications by a heavy freshet which caused a great rise in the river and considerable damage was done to the crops and houses up country. At about noon of Monday last a house which had been washed away by the flood, and three large sampans bottom upwards, were seen floating down the river. Three persons were drowned while endeavouring to collect a portion of the debris. The force of the freshet was so great that two firms, agents for Local Insurance Companies, issued an "Express" requesting shippers of tea to refrain from sending tea down the river, until the force of the freshet had subsided, which it did on the following morning. The fields along the Customs road were flooded, and the water rose considerably over the bund. That there must have been a typhoon in the vicinity of this port, will be seen from the report of the S. S. *Europe*, elsewhere in our columns.

## Shipping.

### ARRIVALS.

Aug. 25, Jap. str. *Tokai-Maru*, Hogg, 1,042, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Aug. 25, Brit. ship *Forest King*, Holmes, 1,602, from Higo, 20th. inst., 35,000 cases, Kerosene and General, to Smith, Baker & Co.  
 Aug. 25, Am. str. *City of Tokio*, Cobb, 5,050, from San Francisco, Mails and General, to P. M. S. S. Co.  
 Aug. 27, Jap. str. *Kumamoto-Maru*, Drummond, 1,240, from Hakodate, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Aug. 29, Brit. str. *Sunda*, Reeves, 1,704, from Hongkong via Nagasaki, Mails and General, despatched by P. & O. Co.  
 Aug. 29, Jap. str. *Niigata-Maru*, Wynn, 1,603, from Hongkong via Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Aug. 29, Jap. str. *Kiushiu-Maru*, Thomas, 690, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Aug. 29, Brit. str. *Darlington*, Hogg, 1,292, from Hongkong, Ballast, to Adamson, Bell & Co.  
 Aug. 31, Jap. str. *Kokonoye-Maru*, Dithlefsen, 1,133, from Hakodate, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Sept. 1, Brit. barq. *Forward Ho*, Wade, 922, from London, General, to C. Illies & Co.  
 Sept. 1, Brit. str. *Antonio*, Seaborne, 1,262, from Kobe, General, to Smith, Baker & Co.  
 Sept. 1, Jap. str. *Shario-Maru*, Davison, 900, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Sept. 1, Jap. str. *Nagoya-Maru*, Walker, 1,914, from Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Sept. 2, Jap. str. *Wakanoura-Maru*, Christensen, 1,300, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Sept. 2, Froh. str. *Mensaleh*, Homery, 1,273, from Hongkong, Mails and General, to M. M. Co.  
 Sept. 2, Jap. str. *Chishima-Maru*, Walker, —, from Hakodate, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Sept. 3, Am. barq. *Wealthy Pendleton*, Blanchard, 800, from Nagasaki, Coals, to John Middleton.  
 Sept. 3, Am. ship *Nancy Pendleton*, Pendleton, 1,449, from New York, April 11th, 4750 cases Oil and General, to Order.

Sept. 3, Am. ship *Carondelet*, Stetson, 1,438, from Cardiff, April 30th, Coals, to M. M. Co.  
 Sept. 3, Jap. str. *Seirio-Maru*, Frank, 690, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Sept. 5, Jap. str. *Tokai-Maru*, Hogg, 1,042, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Sept. 5, Jap. str. *Toyoshima-Maru*, Hubbard, 598, from Hakodate, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Sept. 7, Brit. str. *Oceanic*, Metcalfe, 3,700, from Hongkong, Mails and General, to O. & O. Co.  
 Sept. 8, Jap. str. *Genkai-Maru*, Conner, 1,970, from Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Sept. 8, Jap. str. *Sumida-Maru*, Hubenet, 896, from Hakodate, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Sept. 7, Brit. str. *Stentor*, Kirkpatrick, 1,612, from London via Hongkong, General, to Butterfield & Swire.

### DEPARTURES.

Aug. 24, Jap. str. *Hiroshima-Maru*, Haswell, 1,870, for Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Aug. 24, Ger. corvette *Hertha*, Capt. von Kall, 2,000 tons, 19-guns, for Chefoo.  
 Aug. 25, Jap. str. *Shario-Maru*, Kilgour, 800, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Aug. 26, Jap. str. *Sumida-Maru*, Hubenet, 896, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Aug. 26, Brit. str. *Gaelic*, Kidley, 2,704, for San Francisco, Mails and General, despatched by O. & O. Co.  
 Aug. 27, Am. str. *City of Tokio*, Maury, 5,050, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by P. M. S. S. Co.  
 Aug. 27, Jap. str. *Tamaura-Maru*, Carrow, 558, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Aug. 27, Brit. str. *Carnarvonshire*, Patriok, 1,531, for London via Japan and China ports, General, despatched by Adamson, Bell & Co.  
 Aug. 27, Jap. str. *Wakanoura-Maru*, Christensen, 1,300, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Aug. 28, Jap. str. *Toyoshima-Maru*, Hubbard, 598, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Aug. 28, Froh. str. *Tunais*, Drujon, 1,785, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by M. M. Co.  
 Aug. 29, H. M. S. *Swift*, Capt. Collins, 5-guns, 820 tons, for Hakodate, H. M. Mails.  
 Aug. 29, Jap. str. *Tokai-Maru*, Hogg, 1,042, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Aug. 29, Jap. str. *Seirio-Maru*, —, 680, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Aug. 28, Jap. str. *Tokio-Maru*, Swain, 2,119, for Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Aug. 30, H. N. M. corvette *Komigin Emma der Nederlanden*, Captain le Chev. Besselaer de Bovier, 3,130 tons, 10-guns, 2,670 H.P., for Kobe.  
 Sept. 3, Jap. str. *Shinagawa-Maru*, Walker, 908, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Sept. 3, Jap. str. *Niigata-Maru*, Wynn, 1,603, for Hongkong via Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. Co.  
 Sept. 4, Brit. str. *Sunda*, Reeves, 1,704, for Hongkong via Higo and Nagasaki, Mails and General, despatched by P. & O. Co.  
 Sept. 5, Ger. schr. *Annie*, Muller, 343, for Kobe, General, despatched by Grosser & Co.  
 Sept. 5, Jap. str. *Akitushima-Maru*, Frahm, 1,146, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Sept. 5, Jap. str. *Shario-Maru*, Kilgour, 800, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Sept. 5, Brit. str. *Darlington*, Hogg, 1,292, for New York via Japan and China ports, Tea and General, despatched by Adamson, Bell & Co.  
 Sept. 7, Jap. str. *Nagoya-Maru*, Walker, 1,914, for Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Sept. 8, Jap. str. *Tokai-Maru*, Hogg, 1,042, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Sept. 6, Brit. str. *Antonio*, Seaborne, 1,262, for New York via Amoy, Tea and General, despatched by Smith, Baker & Co.  
 Sept. 6, Jap. str. *Kokonoye-Maru*, Dithlefsen, 1,133, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.

### PASSENGERS.

Per Jap. str. *Hiroshima-Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—His Ex. Von Eisendecker, Mr. and Mrs. André, Mr. and Mrs. Macgregor, Capt. and Mrs. Stainforth and 8 children, Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. Bodisco, Mrs. Savage, Mr. W. H. Short, and 19 Japanese in cabin.  
 Per Am. str. *City of Tokio*, from San Francisco:—Mrs. M. H. Eddy and daughter, Mrs. D. Mahan and child, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Fraser, Miss J. A. Leets, Mrs. N. C. Millett, Messrs. H. M. Sands, Baron Von Bulow, Carl Stanger, V. Wolf, Tzu Soon Kee, John Earl, Louis Fischer, F. T. Martin, E. Michel, Count Von Seebach, Count Von Esback, R. Hathida, and G. Solaska in cabin; and 4 Europeans in steerage. For Hongkong: Col. Crossman, M.M., Lieut. Russell, M.M., Miss L. Chinok, Messrs. Chas. Tripot, J. V. Coles, Ho Quong, 2 ladies and 8 children, Lan Wan Chen, Lin Pat Ting, Yang Hing Ting in cabin; and 210 Chinese in steerage.  
 Per Brit. str. *Gaelic*, for San Francisco:—Miss Devans, Dr. S. Eldridge, Messrs. D. C. McNabb, C. G. Hill, G. Dell'Oro, G. J. Huland, H. Allen, Jr., in cabin; 3 Europeans and 286 Chinese in steerage. For Paris: Mr. Albert Garnier in cabin.  
 Per Brit. str. *Carnarvonshire*, for London via Kobe:—Messrs. J. Higginbotham, Burghard and 75 Japanese.  
 Per Brit. str. *Sunda*, from Hongkong via Nagasaki:—Mr. Hewlett, H. B. M.'s Consul at Canton, Capt. C. W. Haro, R.I.F., Lieut. J. A. Bennett, R.I.F., Messrs. W. D. Levett, R.I.F., Dollman, J. McCallum, H. M. Hosieur Glenroy, and 4 Chinese on deck.  
 Per Jap. str. *Niigata-Maru*, from Hongkong via Kobe:—Mr. A. H. Groom and 8 Japanese in cabin; 1 European and 280 Japanese in steerage.  
 Per Froh. str. *Tunais* for Hongkong:—Messrs. A. Bertrand, A. Costa, Magoichi Daiko, and Kimura Koki in cabin.  
 Per Jap. str. *Tokio-Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. P. Heinemann, Mr. and Mrs. Illies and two children, Messrs. Lang, L. S. Fobes, G. Mosle, G. A. Muhle, Chu, F. J. Marshall, J. Earl, and 5 Japanese in cabin.  
 Per Jap. str. *Shario-Maru*, from Kobe:—40 Japanese in steerage.  
 Per Jap. str. *Nagoya-Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—His Imperial Highness Prince Fushimio-miya and suite, His Ex. and Madame Inouye, child and servant, Miss Walker, Mr. and Mrs. Liuden and servant, Mrs. Arthur, Miss Duncan, Messrs. B. W. Irwin, Hagins, Dr. L. d'Odellien, Capt. J. D. Carroll and servant, and 12 Japanese in cabin; and 489 Japanese, 2 Chinese and 3 Europeans in steerage. For San Francisco: Mrs. Winshif in cabin.  
 Per Jap. str. *Wakanoura-Maru*, from Kobe:—120 Japanese.  
 Per Froh. str. *Mensaleh*, from Hongkong:—Messrs. Ridel and J. J. Keswick in cabin. From Marseilles: Messrs. Osaki Saburo, Sakurai, Masuda, Tannignohi, Inouye and Magaki in cabin.  
 Per Jap. str. *Niigata-Maru*, for Hongkong via Kobe:—Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Holmes, Messrs. W. H. Christy, A. A. Bennett, and 8 Japanese in cabin.  
 Per Jap. str. *Tokai-Maru*, from Kobe:—Captain Mahlmann in cabin; and 1064 Japanese in steerage.  
 Per Jap. str. *Toyoshima-Maru*, from Hakodate:—Dr. and Mrs. Meyers and Mr. Browne in cabin; and 98 Japanese in cabin.  
 Per Brit. str. *Sunda*, for Hongkong via Higo and Nagasaki:—Lieut. Mookler 43rd Regt., Bishop Bowman, Rev. J. O. Davison and child, Capt. Kooh, Miss Bloxsome, Messrs. H. Bistow, Look Hing, Bloxsome, McCallum, Hosain Glenroy, and Quay Peng in cabin; 4 Chinese in steerage.  
 Per Brit. str. *Oceanic*, from Hongkong:—Mr. Geo. Pinker, Miss Grace Matthews, Genl. Le Gendre in cabin; and 2 Chinese in steerage. For San Francisco: Mr. J. M. Ugerte, wife and servant, Mr. Wong Chung and wife in cabin; and 619 Chinese in steerage.  
 Per Brit. str. *Stentor*, from London via Hongkong:—Messrs. Gillingham, Llewellyn, and Sullivan.  
 Per Jap. str. *Nagoya-Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Baron de Zedtwitz, Count Diebach, Lieut. Mahan, wife and child, Rev. J. Goble, Messrs. Robertson, H. M. Fleischer, Gillingham, K. de Protrowsky, Abbe, and 9 Japanese in cabin.  
 Per Jap. str. *Genkai-Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Wiener, and 3 children, Mr. and Mrs. Holt, and 8 children, Mr. and Mrs. W. Barry, Mrs. Reid, Gen. and Mrs. Mitchell, Mr. and Mrs. Watson, child and European nuns, His Ex. Von Eisendecker, Dr. Chas. L. Fisher, Paymaster Whitehouse, U.S.N., Messrs. J. H. Bullock, C. Illies, P. Heinemann, E. O. Kirby, Rhees, E. McLeod, L. Lichtenstein, W. Eytill, W. Sill, Buchard and 8 Japanese in cabin; 2 Europeans, 1 Chinese and 453 Japanese in steerage.

YOKOHAMA, SEPTEMBER 9TH, 1881.

## IMPORTS.

**YARNS.**—Sales reported reach 4,330 Bales against 3,008 Bales for the preceding period; making a total for the year to date of 46,439 Bales—viz.: 27,608 Bales 16/24; 8,907 Bales 28/32; 1,437 Bales 35/42; 2,065 Bales doubled, and 6,422 Bales Indian qualities.

**SUGAR:—**

**KEROSENE:—**Quotations nominal. No sales since the issue of the government notification as to test dated August 18th.

188 lbs. = 1 Picul.

**100 Dollars Mexican = 811 Silver Boos.**

	DUTY CALCULATED IN MEXICAN DOLLARS.	DUTY PAID.		ESTIMATED SALES.	
		PRICES AT WHICH SALES HAVE BEEN MADE.	NOMINAL QUOTATIONS.	(From 24th. August to 7th. September.)	
COTTON PIECE GOODS.					
Drills, American, 40 yds. 30 in. 14 lbs. ... ..	0.0241 ₱ 10 yds.	\$ ————— ₱ pc.	\$2.55 @ 3.50	—	pieces.
Prints, assorted, 24 " 36 " ... ..	0.0241 " "	2.90 ————— " "	1.00 @ 3.00	800	"
Satins (cotton) ... ..	0.0648 " "	————— " "	0.11½ @ 0.12	—	"
Shirtings, Grey, 38¼ yds. 39 in. 7 lbs. ....	0.0281 " "	————— ₱ yd.	1.40 @ 1.90	—	"
" " 38¼ " 39 " 8¼ " ... ..	0.0281 " "	————— ₱ pc.	1.75 @ 2.35	—	"
" " 38¼ " 45 " 9 " ... ..	0.0321 " "	2.30 @ 2.65 " "	—————	5,000	"
" " 39 " 39 " 10 " ... ..	0.0821 " "	—————	—————	—	"
T. Cloth, 32 in. 6 lbs. ... ..	{ 0.0241 " "	—————	1.20 @ 1.50	—	"
" " 7 " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "		—————	1.55 @ 1.75	—	"
Turkey Reds, 24 yds. 30 in. 1½ lb. ... ..	" " " "	1.55 ————— " "	—————	700	"
" " 24 " 30 " 2 " @ 2¼ lb. ....	" " " "	1.55 @ 1.65 " "	—————	3,100	"
" " 24 " 30 " 2¼ " " " " " " " " " "	{ 0.0241 " "	1.80 ————— " "	—————	700	"
" " 24 " 30 " — @ 3 lbs. ... ..	" " " "	—————	1.60 @ 2.20	—	"
Velvets (black) 35 " 22 " ... ..	0.0648 " "	7.10 @ 8.60 " "	—————	500	"
Victoria Lawns, 12 " 43 " ... ..	0.0821 " "	0.62 ————— " "	0.60 @ 0.80	5,000	"
Cotton Italians, 35 " 32 " ... ..	0.0648 " "	0.10 ————— ₱ yd.	0.10 @ 0.15	250	"
COTTON YARN.					
Nos. 10 @ 12 ... ..	{ 1.6077 ₱ picul.	27.75 ————— ₱ pc.	—————	20	bales
" 12 ... ..		28.50 ————— " "	—————	10	"
" 20 ... ..		33.50 ————— " "	—————	100	"
" 22 @ 24 ... ..		31.00 ————— " "	—————	50	"
" 16 @ 24 reversed ... ..		32.25 ————— " "	—————	100	"
" 16 @ 24 ... ..		30.50 @ 33.10 " "	—————	2,225	"
" 28 @ 32 ... ..		32.50 @ 35.50 " "	—————	855	"
" 38 @ 42 ... ..		39.— @ 39.50 " "	—————	55	"
" 32 doubled ... ..		36.— @ 38.60 " "	—————	80	"
" 42 " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "		38.75 @ 39.25 " "	—————	300	"
" 60 " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "		55.50 ————— " "	—————	110	"
Indian No. 16 ... ..		29.25 ————— " "	—————	420	"
" " 20 ... ..		29.25 @ 30.25 " "	—————	5	"
WOOLLENS AND MIXTURES.					
Alpaca, 40 yds. 32 in... ..	0.0965 ₱ 10 yds.	————— ₱ pc.	\$5.50 @ \$7.00	—	
Blankets, assorted ... ..	{ 1.6077 ₱ picul.	————— ₱ lb.	—————	—	
" " 8 lbs. ... ..		0.85 ————— " "	—————	100	
" " 5 lbs. (70 scarlet 30 green propn.)....		0.41 @ 0.42 " "	—————	2,480	
Cloth, all wool, 54 @ 64 lbs. ... ..	0.0965 ₱ 10 yds.	————— ₱ yd.	0.80 @ 1.50	—	
" Pilots, 54 @ 64 " " " " " " " " " "	" " " "	————— " "	0.80 @ 0.60	—	
" Presidents, 54 @ 64 " " " " " " " " " "	0.3215 under 55 in. to	————— " "	0.60 @ 0.70	—	
" Union, 54 @ 56 " " " " " " " " " "	0.4019 exceeding 55 in.	————— " "	0.35 @ 0.60	—	
Italian Cloth, 32 in. ... ..	In width ₱ 10 yds.	————— " "	0.25 @ 0.40	—	
Mousselines de Laine (plain & stripes), 24 yds. 31 in. ....	0.0965 ₱ 10 yds.	0.15½ @ 0.16 " "	0.16½ @ 0.19½	2,600	
" " " (figured) ... ..	0.0965 " "	————— " "	0.25 @ 0.40	—	
SUGAR.					
White, Jimpah, No. 1 ... ..	{ 0.8215 ₱ picul.	\$7.20 @ 7.80	—————	{ 11,000 piculs Stock.	
" Khihpah, " 2 ... ..		6.60 @ 7.10	—————		
" Kokfah, " 3 ... ..		6.00 @ 6.50	—————		
" Kungfun, " 4 ... ..		5.40 @ 5.80	—————		
" Gnihpah, " 5 ... ..		4.80 @ 5.30	—————		
Brown, Formosa, bags ... .. { new old	0.1286 " "	4.20 @ 4.30	—————		80,000 piculs new Stock.
" Amoy ... ..		3.90 @ 4.00	—————	32,000 " old "	
METALS &c.					
Iron, Flat and Round ... ..	0.0965 ₱ picul.	————— ₱ pcl.	\$2.50 @ \$2.80		
" Assorted Nail-rods, (assorted)	0.0965 " "	————— " "	2.90 @ 3.50		
" Pig ... ..	0.0482 " "	————— " "	1.40 @ 1.60		
Lead, Pig ... ..	0.2572 " "	————— " "	5.80 @ 6.00		
Quicksilver ... ..	1.9292 " "	————— " "	—————		
Steel, Swedish ... ..	0.1930 " "	————— " "	3.80 @ 4.55		
Tin Plates ... ..	0.2251 ₱ 120 lbs.	————— ₱ box	4.80 @ 4.90		
Kerosene Oil ... ..	5 % ad valorem.	————— ₱ case	1.85 @ 1.90		
Raw Cotton ... ..	0.4019 ₱ picul.	————— ₱ pcl.	10.00 @ 15.00		Stocks 220,000 cases.

## STAPLE EXPORTS.

**SILK.**—Since our last issue dated 25th. ult., a moderate business only has been done in this article, settlements by foreign firms appearing as about 400 bales the larger portion being Filatures. As noted in our last the tendency was towards higher prices, this has continued to be the case throughout, and with the help of purchases by Japanese speculating on the market for a rise, and also, by open purchases per direct exportation, dealers have been able to establish an advance of about \$15 per picul on Hanks and \$30 on Filatures. Kakedas have been neglected and show an advance of about \$20. At this advance foreigners have been by no means willing operators, whilst, on the other hand, holders seem confident as to the future and are not current sellers at quotations.

Stock has daily increased being now estimated at 4,000 bales, of which 2,150 bales are Hanks, 1,100 bales Filatures, 550 bales Kakedas, and 200 bales Oshius and other sorts. Holders resorting to loans to carry this stock. As yet no further steps have been taken in the matter of the new trade regulations alluded to in our last.

TOTAL EXPORT FROM 1ST JULY TO DATE.										1880-81.	1881-82
London	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	770 Bales.	693 Bales.
France and Italy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	747 "	1,358 "
United States	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	812 "	517 "
										2,329 Bales.	2,568 Bales.

**TEA.**—Business in this staple continues much as reported in our last. Settlements during the interval amount to 9,400 piculs comprising largely of Teas from Good Medium downwards and which classes are at present decidedly weak. Settlements for this place and Kobe to date show a falling off in comparison with corresponding period last season of about 40,000 piculs for the two ports, but this year we have not experienced the "boom" in the Tea market which took place in August and September last years.

Our export to date from this and Kobe is 4½ million pounds under same date last season, the deficiency being mostly in grades below Good Medium, and this can be easily recovered later on in the season should the American market require it.

Fine grades are in considerable excess in comparison with same date last year, and it is difficult to understand how these maintain present scale of prices taking into account average quality of parcels of ferring.

The *Oceanic* leaving 10th. instant takes tea freight to New York at 2½ cents per lb. gross and the *City of Tokio* to follow on the 26th also accepts same rate. The *S. S. Castello* and *Teucer* are advertised for New York, via China ports and Suez Canal, freight, £3.10s. to £3.15s. per 40 cubic feet.

DESCRIPTION.	PRICES PER PICUL.	REMARKS.
SILK:—		
Mayebashi; 1½ @ 2 Hanks ... ..	\$ 680 to 640 per picul.	} Many parcels held for higher rates.
"      2      "      ... ..	610 to 625 "	
"      2½    "      ... ..	585 to 595 "	
"      3 and lower ... ..	540 to 570 "	
Kakedas; Good ... ..	650 to 670 "	
Filatures; Best ... ..	740 to 750 "	
"      Good ... ..	710 to 730 "	
Hamatski; Medium ... ..	550 to — "	
Sendai and Oshiu ... ..	— to — "	
TEA:—		
Common... ..	\$10.00 and under.	} Grades from Good Medium continue tending downwards.
Good Common ... ..	\$12.00 to \$14.00	
Medium ... ..	\$16.00 to \$19.00	
Good Medium ... ..	\$20.00 to \$24.00	
Fine ... ..	\$25.00 to \$29.00	
Finest ... ..	\$31.00 to \$34.00	
Choice ... ..	\$36.00 and upwards.	

## EXCHANGE.

Both imports and exports having been very dull since last mail, transactions in exchange for private as well as bank paper have been very trifling and rates have fluctuated only slightly as will be seen below. Silver is quoted 51½ or ½ higher than at the departure of last mail.

ON LONDON.—Bank	4 months' sight	3s. 8½d.	ON HONGKONG.—Bank	Sight	½ % disc.
" do.	Sight	3s. 8½d. to ½	" Private	10 days' sight	½ " "
" Credits	6 months' sight	3s. 9½d.	" SAN FRANCISCO.—Bank	Sight	89½
" do.	4 do.	3s. 9½d.	" Private	30 days' sight	90½
" PARIS.—Bank	Sight	4.67	" NEW YORK.—Bank	Sight	89½
" Credits	6 months' sight	4.81	" Private	30 days' sight	90½
" SHANGHAI.—Bank	Sight	72½			
" Private	10 days' sight	73			

Kinsatsu, 165 per \$100.



# THE JAPAN GAZETTE,

A FORTNIGHTLY SUMMARY OF THE

POLITICAL, COMMERCIAL, LITERARY, AND SOCIAL EVENTS OF JAPAN.

VOL. XXVIII. No. 6.

YOKOHAMA, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1881.

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## BIRTHS.

On the 15th instant, at No. 56, Bluff, Yokohama, the wife of G. T. MARSH, of a Son.

On the 15th instant, at No. 150, Bluff, the wife, of P. BOHM, of a daughter.

## Summary.

OUR last issue was dated September 9th. for transmission per O. & O. S. S. *Oceanic*. The following mails have since been received:—

O. & O. S. *Belgie*, San Fr'co ... Aug. 23, arr. Sep. 12.  
M. M. S. *Tanais*, Marseilles ... " 7, " " 12.  
P. M. S. *City of Tokio*, London .. 12, " " 23.

And the following have been despatched:—  
O. & O. S. *Oceanic*, San Francisco ... September 10  
M. M. S. *Volga*, Marseilles..... " 11.  
P. & O. S. *Malacca*, London ..... " 23.

It is now definitely known that the detached squadron will not arrive here before the 25th. Oct. next. Preparations are being made on a large scale at Tokio for the reception of Princes Albert Victor and George of Wales, and it is probable that His Imperial Majesty the Mikado will receive their Royal Highnesses in person and welcome them to his dominions. This we infer from a report which has been circulated by the native press that he is hastening his return from the north.

A NEW silk guild has excited a great deal of hostile criticism by its unprecedented proceedings. A circular recently issued by its promoters, a translation of which will be found elsewhere, is both edifying and amusing as an instance of the manner in which the Japanese are wont to deal in that peculiar commodity commonly called "soft soap." The obnoxious foreigner has to be circumvented by fair or unfair means and they therefore take care to administer the aforesaid luxury hot and strong. Hereafter, they may find to their cost that the foreigner knows how to play his cards as well as they do.

CHOLERA still continues its ravages. Since our last issue the disease has spread rapidly, and very unfavourable reports are almost daily received from the infected districts.

On the 15th inst., intelligence was received by the Netherlands consul of the death of Prince Frederick of Holland, uncle to His Netherlands Majesty, when the flags at the several consulates were lowered to half-mast as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased.

One of our vernacular contemporaries gives publicity to a rumour which emanated from a Tokio bank that a new foreign loan

has been sanctioned by the Imperial government to the tune of \$50,000,000. The same paper delicately hints that this very communicative bank is in some way connected with a certain high official from which inspired source it gained its information. Our contemporary adds a saving clause to the effect that he does not vouch for the truth of the story, but simply gives it *quantum valeat*.

ITALIAN residents form but a small section of the foreign community of Yokohama, therefore when one is removed by death his loss is all the more acutely felt by those who remain behind. We were sorry to learn by telegram of the death of Mr. Guiseppe dell'Oro which took place a few days ago, either just before or immediately after the arrival of S. S. *Gaelic* at San Francisco. Mr. dell'Oro commenced business in Yokohama many years ago, his firm being the oldest in Japan. Well known and esteemed, many friends will hear of his untimely death with sincere regret.

AMONGST the passengers who arrived from San Francisco by the S. S. *Belgie* on the 12th. inst., we note the names of Lord and Lady Harris and Lord Zouche. Their visit was, however, only a flying one for they left two days later for one of the coast ports (either Nagasaki or Kobe) by one of the M. B. steamers. Report says they will shortly return in order to be present during the stay of the detached squadron. Their lordships are both distinguished cricketers and it is to be hoped they will display their abilities as such when next they honour this "sleepy hollow" with the light of their countenances.

We lately referred to the flourishing condition of a certain life assurance company which had only recently been established. It seems that the Japanese are alive to the fact that property requires insuring as well as life, inasmuch as flames are equally as destructive to the former as disease is to the latter. A code of fire insurance regulations has been drawn up and submitted to the cabinet; and should that august assembly deign to express its gracious approval thereof business in this very necessary line of "taking thought for the morrow" will be commenced forthwith.

INTELLIGENCE of the death of President Garfield was received here on the 21st. inst. Although not altogether unexpected, it has cast a sad gloom over the American portion of the foreign community whose regret at this sudden and tragic termination of a valuable life and honourable career is fully shared by all classes in Japan. On the 22nd. the flags at the several consulates and amongst the ships in harbour were lowered to half-mast and half-hour guns were fired by the U. S. gun-boat *Monocacy* as a last mark of respect to the memory of the deceased.

## Leading Articles.

### PRESIDENT GARFIELD.

**A**FTER a period of suspense that cannot be defined by months and days; after varying alternations of hope and fear, the telegraph brings the final news announcing that General JAMES A. GARFIELD, President of the United States of America, is no more.

A man of honour and integrity to whom a great nation looked up as to their chosen chief; a ruler elected by the voice of his fellow countrymen and secure of their esteem, affection, and confidence in the performance of the duties imposed upon him by the constitution; in the prime of life and the full vigour of his intellect, President GARFIELD has fallen a victim to the pistol of the assassin.

A fatal termination to the attempt has from the first been so probable that the telegram of last Wednesday causes no surprise; but it revives on all sides, and among all nationalities, that earnest sympathy for Americans which a loss so great, the result of a crime so atrocious, naturally calls forth. In the case of the United States most of us are inclined to separate the Man from the President; and to regard the murder as a double crime; terrible in its direct consequences to the immediate relatives of the victim, who lose in him a husband and father; and none the less terrible in its ghastly, remorseful suggestion to a sorrowing people that the countrymen they had chosen they were unable to protect in the fulfilment of the duties of his high office.

Before a national calamity such as this, with all its grievous conditions, differences of race and government disappear; and all of us resident in Japan are wholly American in our appreciation of the catastrophe which darkens the historical record of a free and friendly people whose beneficial influences extend throughout the civilised world.

### RENGO KIITO NI ADZUKARI SHO.

**T**HE proposed operations of this company form matter sufficiently exciting to the public to justify some reference to its constitution and objects. Direct trading has seized on the Japanese mind, and become a mania almost equal in intensity to the rabbit, pig, and other follies of seven years ago. A number of native traders who have been dealing with foreigners for twenty years, obtaining prices for silk nearly double the cost of its production, and who have acquired considerable wealth for themselves, are under the impression that the foreign merchant is enjoying a rich trade, the profit of which of right belongs to them. How to get hold of this trade is the question. Producers want ready money. It is quite immaterial to them who buys the silk, so long as they get money quickly. It has therefore occurred to the astute promoters of this company, that if they can provide advances they may monopolize the trade. Happy thought! Let us go to work. A peculiarity of the Japanese mind is the idea that to borrow money from a native upon the security of silk or other produce is perfectly proper, but to do the same from a foreigner

is humiliating, instead of being one of the ordinary matter of course transactions of commerce. To endeavour to argue this point with them would be wasted labour, but perhaps they may be enlightened by learning that, although by depositing their silk with the Rengo Kiito Ni Adzukari Sho, they can obtain the advances they require without incurring fancied obligations to the foreigner, it is the foreigner in reality who is asked to, and will probably lend the money wherewith the advances are to be made.

The capital of this shosha is said to be yen 100,000, or say \$60,000. This sum is subscribed for the purpose of making advances against silk deposited with the company, and it is openly stated that the company's funds are sufficient for all probable requirements. Whether this is so or not may be settled by the fact that of late this shosha by its agents, native and foreign, has been seeking to obtain advances from foreign bankers. Transactions of this kind give rise to two or three grave questions which cannot be too soon and too seriously considered by borrowers and lenders. In the first place, has any trustee or custodian of goods the right to hypothecate those goods for advances made by a third party? And what legal status, short of actual possession, does the lender enjoy under such circumstances. If the lenders take the precautions rendered necessary by the conflict of nationality, the shosha will cease to act as godown keepers and the silk will be placed in the possession of persons amenable to recognized law. If the lenders are content to make advances upon silk in Japanese possession, how is that silk to be sold or shipped? In the next place, no banker can make advances upon property that is not fully covered against loss by fire; and no respectable fire office will insure for Japanese, except in rare instances, for the reasons following. A policy of insurance is founded upon mutual trust and good faith, which are not called in question until a loss arises. When a claim is made a Japanese will be found to be legally incapable of complying with the conditions of the policy for the substantiation of his demand. Fire insurance can never be anything more than an indemnification, the exact loss only being recoverable without regard to the amount insured if it exceeds the sum of the loss. Those companies who have had applications made to them for fire insurance on behalf of the shosha have, no doubt, been influenced by these proper considerations, for we understand the majority of applications at least have been declined. Certainly nothing more unsatisfactory can well be imagined than a heavy claim for fire loss preferred by a Japanese; for, as we remarked before, fire insurance is a contract founded upon mutual confidence and good faith. Probably, when the company drew up its prospectus, it did not occur to the promoters that there would be any difficulty of this character, or the clause to the effect that "safe and spacious godowns are provided wherein goods deposited may be insured against fire," would have been qualified by the addition of the words "if any respectable company will take the risk."

This is how the matter stands with the shosha, and it affords but one more illustration of the inadequacy of the machinery possessed by Japanese for the conduct of trade on a large scale. Every transaction they propose to undertake comes to the same termination, and resort must be had to foreign money and foreign business institutions. The point to which we beg to call the

attention of the Japanese people is that, while they are flattering themselves that the advances obtained on their produce are made by their own people, the shosha is reported to be busily engaged in pawning or attempting to pawn the goods of their principals with foreign bankers for the purpose of obtaining money wherewith to make those advances. The distinction is, therefore, clearly one without a difference; and the shosha, without the aid of foreign capitalists, would be quite unable to carry on its business.—Sept. 9.

### THE SILK TRADE.

**T**HE recent proceedings of a combination of Japanese silk merchants led to a meeting being convened to take into consideration the attitude assumed by them *vis à vis* foreign resident merchants, and a large gathering of heads of houses and silk buyers took place at the Club Germania last evening, forming, in every respect, an influential representation of the whole foreign commercial community. Mr. WILKIN, of the firm of WILKIN and ROBISON, was voted to the chair, and opened the proceedings with a brief but lucid and pointed explanation of the causes which had led to the assembly. The discussion which followed was animated, and possessed the great merit of unanimity of opinion which resolved itself into a resolution more than warranted by the conditions of foreign trade in Japan, and the class of persons with whom foreigners are compelled to deal. The remarks of the several speakers all tended in one direction, namely, that there was a deep felt distrust in the commercial integrity of Japanese merchants proper, and that it behoved all interested to adopt those measures which long experience proved to be not merely wise or prudent, but absolutely necessary to surround foreign trade with the safeguards essential to its existence. So general was this impression that none present seemed inclined to temper their opinions with any words that might be construed in favour of, or complimentary to, the Japanese people. The unanimous tone of the meeting, we are constrained to repeat, was one of profound distrust of the native trader, against whom foreign merchants are compelled to protect themselves.

This community is to be congratulated upon the meeting, its tone, and its unanimity of result. That it should have been called at all is a sign that urgent necessity was the moving cause, for it is matter of common knowledge and conversation that to ensure concerted action of the residents regarding their own affairs, or to prevail upon them to meet to interchange ideas on the most important subjects intimately connected with their welfare, is immensely difficult if not wholly impossible: and that so large a gathering of leading merchants and silk buyers should have assembled at so short notice is an unmistakable indication of the revival of the knowledge that union is strength; and that a formidable spirit of resistance is aroused to combinations formed for objects injurious to the commerce to conduct which foreign merchants keep up large establishments, disburse great sums in salaries, wages, &c., and provide this country with the capital upon which its traders have been working ever since the ports were opened.

Satisfactory as the tone and result of the meeting are, it is much to be regretted that those present were unable to express themselves in any other way than they did; and that Japan, and the commercial world with

which Japan deals, should be informed in this forcible and unceremonious manner that foreign merchants, after their twenty-one years practical experience, have no trust whatever in the commercial integrity of the Japanese trader, or in the principles upon which his trade is conducted. This intense distrust of the native trader arises from various causes. Until lately the persons with whom foreigners have had to deal have been men without education or social standing, and devoid of those principles of probity and truth which are inherent in the foreign merchant, by whom honour and reputation are more highly prized than wealth. We have no desire to censure Japanese for failings which are the consequence more of their education than their inclination; but this is no time to disguise facts merely because they are unpleasant to the ear, or to hesitate to give expression to sentiments which must now be enunciated if a better understanding is to be arrived at for the conduct of our mutual intercourse. Unacquainted with the strict principles on which business must be conducted, Japanese are accustomed to regard the action of foreigners in its conduct as oppressive, and sometimes insolent and insulting. Not untruthful as men, they still regard truth, in word and deed, in business, as indicating a dearth of imaginative power, and an absence of that elastic quality which gives such scope and variety to their own commercial transactions. Happily, however, a superior class of the people is being attracted to a pursuit which they observe is held in high estimation by the enlightened nations of the west; and to their influence and example we may reasonably look for the causes which will lead to improvement.

Of late years the fashion has been to laud the intelligence and other good qualities of the Japanese people generally, and to give expression to harsh and unjustifiable comments on the hardships to which the Japanese trader is subjected under the oppressive and unjust commercial treaties supposed to be in force. Deputations of Japanese have waited upon every foreign visitor whom they supposed to have influence, and in these interviews the iniquitous character of the treaties has been the principal theme. This was specially noticeable in the address presented by Mr. GODAI, in the name of the Osaka Chamber of Commerce, to Sir JOHN HENNESSY; and the same calumny has been repeated in the United States and some of the countries of Europe. Efforts have been made by the press to counteract the evil influence of these slanders; and to speak in defence of foreign commerce, of those who conduct it, and of its beneficial, not injurious, effect upon this country at large; and now a meeting which comprised, almost without exception, all the chiefs of our community, men whose experience and judgment must have weight with the commercial world, has expressed a unanimous adverse opinion upon the relations subsisting between Japanese and foreign merchants, thereby dealing a serious blow to all the assertions made abroad in favour of the Japanese; and also to the several articles written at the request of the Japanese government by subsidized foreign journals and despatched to prominent statesmen abroad by the Japanese Foreign Office. A better answer also could not be given to the writings of those visitors who unfortunately could see nothing in foreign intercourse but oppression of the simple Japanese trader by foreign merchants who should know better: while the composition of the meeting removes

all doubt as to the honesty and sincerity of conviction of those present.

The backward state of trade in Japan is a standing denial to all assertions of progress. No effort is spared to invent new processes of manipulation of the paltry import and export which this nation dignifies by the name of FOREIGN COMMERCE. Every trick which could be tried has been tried, and failed; yet to the pain and regret of all earnest well-wishers no effort appears to be extended to the augmentation of available exports, to the removal of the obstructions thereto, the abolition of the disabilities under which the mass of the people labour, and to place Japan upon the true path to opulence and power, that which leads by broad, straight, and light, not narrow, devious, and dark, avenues to a noble and monumental commerce, the beneficent mother of PEACE and GOODWILL.

A gleam of light has relieved the dreary prospect during the past year or two; and there are some foreign optimists who profess to hope for better times of which there is some promise; nor can thinking men entirely disagree with them. There is no doubt that the new element engaging in commerce is endowed with those advantages the present generation of merchants do not possess. Higher education; a keener sense of honour; an inherent regard for truth; an unswerving love of probity—qualities without which commerce in its true sense has no existence among mankind—are the distinguishing characteristics of the few newcomers whose example and precept may leaven the whole mass.—Sept. 21.

#### SUBSIDIZED JOURNALISM.

FOR some few years past the hostility of the Japanese government and of certain sections of the people towards foreign residents, and the commerce conducted by them, has made itself painfully felt. Certain that the vernacular newspapers could not be read abroad, even were they sufficiently influential to command attention, the government have made various efforts to influence one or more of the journals published in the English language in Tokio and Yokohama. The first attempt was on the *Japan Mail*, when Mr. W. G. HOWELL was proprietor and editor. The circumstances of that arrangement were detailed by Mr. HOWELL in a letter addressed to this paper and published in February last, in which Mr. HOWELL explained that, fearful any such arrangement as a large government subscription to his paper should be construed into the hire of his pen, before consenting to the agreement insisted upon the insertion of the following clause:—

"The said W. G. HOWELL in view of the unwritten but universally recognized laws and traditions which guide all honourable journalism, shall be at full liberty to express and publish his own opinions in a true and impartial manner upon any matter communicated to him by the Japanese government, or any matter whatsoever upon which he may see fit to comment, and shall be as free in this respect as if he had no connection with the Japanese government."

This agreement, the full effect of which was not generally known at the time it was made, was severely animadverted upon by the *Mail's* contemporaries. But Mr. HOWELL was so well known, and his treatment of Japanese affairs so thoroughly and sincerely impartial, that public opinion became unanimous in absolving him from all suspicion

of being influenced by an arrangement by which five hundred copies of every mail issue of his paper were furnished for a sum "very much under one half of the annual rate of subscription." Further, we must add to this the most important fact, that the *Mail's* treatment of Japanese affairs caused the arrangement to terminate within a very short period. Mr. HOWELL's candid explanation of all these circumstances not only removes the reproach which exaggerated rumour cast upon him, but it gave us some insight into the working of an agreement between an independent journalist and the government of Japan. Then came the establishment of the *Tokio Times*, a journal the subscription to which by the general public was so small as to be insufficient to cover the mere cost of printing. For three and a half years this Japanese journal printed in English was maintained by the government, or by some department thereof, for the express purpose of vilifying the whole foreign community. Public opinion, combined with the knowledge which gradually dawned upon the minds of the subscribers of that shameless print that its advocacy was doing them infinite harm, led to the withdrawal of the monthly payments, and from June 1880 until the beginning of this year, the government had no foreign conducted organ, when the *Japan Mail*, which had rapidly declined in public estimation since the retirement of Mr. W. G. HOWELL, and which had, by its vacillating policy, and frequent change of editor, become the laughing-stock of sensible people, was, to everybody's surprise, stated to be purchased by a gentlemen holding HER MAJESTY'S commission. Some of our contemporaries, less punctilious than ourselves, insinuated that the *Japan Mail* had been purchased for the express purpose of advocating official and anti-foreign views. The subsidization of the *Mail* by the government was also referred to, and that journal, alluding to this accusation, said, in its issue of January the 29th:—

"That such relations exist is completely false. This paper is not an official organ in any sense of the word. It receives no subsidy whatsoever from the government of Japan, and the opinions expressed in its columns are entirely the outcome of independent conviction."

This passage was written before a transaction to which reference will be made. The following was written after, namely on April 16th:—

"In reply to a charge less unworthy of attention, since it was more candid, we stated some time ago, that this journal is entirely independent and that the opinions its columns contain are from first to last the outcome of our honest convictions. We can only now repeat that statement, and we do so most emphatically."

A few days ago we received information from a perfectly trustworthy source that the *Japan Mail* supplied one of the government departments with three hundred copies of that paper. Having due regard to past transactions, to the attitude recently assumed by the *Japan Mail*, its advocacy of the suppression of unsubsidized journals, the abolition of extra-territorial rights, the submission of foreigners to Japanese law, and its unsupported statements in regard to the terms of acquisition of state property by the government steamship company, all matters of vital interest to the community at large, we inserted the paragraph in our issue of the 30th ultimo. On the 1st inst. the *Japan Herald* repudiated any connection with the

matter, and on the following day the *daily* edition of the *Mail* explained that an entirely unsolicited order, unburdened by conditions, was sent to its proprietor two months or so after the purchase of the paper, increasing the number of copies of the weekly paper subscribed for by the Japanese Foreign Office, "not, however, by any means to the extent stated by our contemporaries."

When this order was received the proprietor of the *Mail* feeling that so soon as the matter attracted public attention its propriety would be questioned, addressed a letter to the vice-minister for foreign affairs, which we quote:—

DEAR SIR,—I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter directing that certain copies of the *Japan Weekly Mail* shall be forwarded in future to the addresses mentioned in your enclosed list.

You will I trust pardon me if I take the opportunity of stating that the policy of the *Japan Mail* is entirely independent, and that, so long as I remain its proprietor, its contents shall invariably be the outcome of my own honest convictions.

This declaration may perhaps appear superfluous in the total absence of all communication on the subject from either yourself or any other member of His Imperial Majesty's Government, but I am persuaded that any suspicion of undue influence would be as unwelcome to you as it is intolerable to myself, and I therefore do not hesitate to place on record an unequivocal disavowal of all obligation with the support you have now been pleased to give the *Japan Mail*.

"Our readers," says the *Japan Mail*, "are now in possession of the exact relationship in which this paper stands to the government of Japan. We place the plain facts before the public, confident that they require neither comment nor elaboration."

The public may not without reflection understand the importance to themselves of a transaction of this kind. It seemed impossible that any Englishman could be found to voluntarily advocate the suppression of free thought, the subjection of foreigners to Japanese law, which virtually is non-existent, and to a form of government declared by native speakers in public meetings to be no longer endurable, even by themselves, and to make the utterly unworthy suggestion, none the less shameful for being put forward under a false guise, that the first of these ends might be attained by closing the post offices against unlicensed journals. Now, however, the mystery is partially explained. Not by any means three hundred copies are subscribed for by the foreign office, says the *Japan Mail*. How many copies then? Without this information, the "exact relationship," and "plain facts" are not before the public, and it is essentially necessary to the reputation of the *Japan Mail*, if it desires to be regarded as a foreign journal and not as the organ of the government subsidized for the purpose of putting forward coloured and exaggerated accounts of Japanese progress, of the ability of the government, and of the unworthiness of the people to exercise any political rights, or even to sit as jurymen. With what object of his own can an Englishman, in fairness to the class of foreigners in Japan, urge the preposterous demand of the Japanese for the abolition of extra-territoriality? He knows thoroughly well that the laws of Japan are utterly unequal to the requirements of foreign commerce and its usages. Further that, however perfect the codes of law may be made, there is not a single Japanese with legal training and knowledge of the world sufficient to warrant his appointment to any judicial post where he would be called upon to administer those laws with due regard to the usages of civilized nations; customs and

usages equally necessary for the control and protection of their commerce and for the peace and prosperity of Japan.

We disclaim any feeling in this matter; but we hold that the practice of influencing newspapers by payment, whether made directly, or in the form of subscription, cannot be too severely criticised and condemned. In this case, it is perfectly well known the government would not subscribe unless the proprietor of the paper conformed to their especial requirements, and unless they could rely on an apparently discriminative, but in reality substantial, advocacy of all their measures. The letter of the proprietor of the *Mail* to the vice-minister for foreign affairs, written on March 11th, is worse than valueless, for it anticipates the construction likely to be placed on the action of the foreign office without affording any guarantee that the interests of the public will not be sacrificed at the command of the chief subscribers. Whether or not the *Japan Mail* is supporting government measures, earning its money, in fact, is a question for those to decide who are interested in it. For our part, we hold that the acceptance of money by a newspaper from any party or government is inconsistent with its duty, and wholly incompatible with the traditions of honourable journalism.

Finally, we have a right to ask why the explanation is omitted from the *Weekly Mail*, the paper despatched abroad by the government? Are the people who receive that journal to be kept in ignorance that the articles it contains are paid for by the only persons who are interested in their publication?—Sept. 10.

#### HOW DO THE GOVERNMENT SUPPLY THEIR SPECIE REQUIREMENTS ABROAD?

PEOPLE have been waiting for the government's necessary remittances to Europe, to cover their expenditure abroad, in expectation of seeing a sudden and serious decline in the present nominal value of paper currency; and the other day it was noticed in the journals that two of the principal ministers of state had visited at No. 11 a celebrated foreign financier, for the purpose arranging a scheme for the improvement of kinsatsu. If this scheme is to be carried out without a foreign loan, that is to say, without coin, the celebrated foreign financier alluded to ought to have lived eighteen hundred and odd years ago, during the period of miracles. If, however, the improvement in the condition of satsu or the prevention of further depreciation, are to be carried out without the aid of coin, they will have to be carried out by obtaining from the nation its saleable commodities for paper, and converting such saleable commodities into bullion in different parts of Europe and America; which bullion will have to be sent to London to the agent of the government there; that is to say, in other words, bullion will be purchased by the government for kinsatsu in London instead of in Yokohama. Whatever the process may be, we have only to regard the result, which is, that the government, by this means, seek to obtain the bullion they require in exchange for the only currency they can disburse—paper. Operations like these would not only be unjust to the country but ruinous to the currency of the nation.

People are speculating whether the action

of the Specie Bank in April and May last was due to the advice of the celebrated foreign financier. The action of the Specie Bank now alluded to, and which we have learned from public rumour, was to send emissaries into the principal silk districts, to offer advances of money in paper to assist silk reelers with a larger capital than they originally possessed for the production of silk and the purchase of cocoons. It is said that a very large number of Japanese reelers in the interior jumped at the offer, especially as the amount of interest was put at a very low rate, say about one half per cent. per month. Now it is well known that Japanese of all classes are very ready borrowers, and it is not to be wondered at that offers of money at a low rate of interest should be eagerly accepted. But, after the loans had been accepted, came certain conditions attached to the promissory notes or receipts; and among these conditions, they say, are some very stringent clauses imposed upon the borrower; such as, first, that all silk produced must be sent abroad on account of the producer through some of the recently established direct-trading companies or *shokwai*; that the proceeds, deducting charges, would have to be paid over to the government agent in London, and that the producer here would be credited in account with the result of the sale, in paper currency. Second, that upon the recognized shipment abroad of the produce, a further advance would be made of 80 per cent. of its value, also in paper. Thus the producer and borrower is bound to ship all he produces through the medium of the lender or his agents, until the original loan is recovered by the Specie Bank through the instalments of 20 per cent. on the value of each shipment; or by a balance of return from the selling markets. By the stipulation of the Specie Bank that the produce must be sent through one of the established trading companies, and not through any of the native merchants of Yokohama, it is to be presumed that the Specie Bank desires its lien upon all produce shall be entrusted to Japanese agents residing abroad, and not to foreign firms of standing or reputation. Thus, the trading companies are not allowed to be independent merchants acting in accordance with their judgment for the benefit of their constituents, but all their operations seem to be controlled by the government, possibly in order to force shipments into the hands of the government's special agents, who are attached as commercial branches to the Specie Bank; or to one or two of their foreign favourites who are frequently allowed to send forward quantities of silk on Japanese account. Whether these measures are taken for the purpose of securing its lien, or to disguise the real character of the transactions, is a subject for speculation.

This method of laying down money in London is but a variation of the process which was exposed some four years ago. Then, according to H. E. OKUMA's own avowal, to avoid drawing upon the "reserve fund," rice was purchased in the interior and shipped on government account for conversion into bullion to be used in London for government purposes. These transactions were then on government account solely; and the government then formed the only direct-trading company of Japan: an attitude which gave rise to so much adverse criticism that the policy was abandoned, to be recommenced in this new and disguised form. To-day, the government do not appear to be



directly interested in any of the produce forwarded, and are in a position to say to the world,—“Our people want to trade in this manner, and we are simply assisting them.” They do not add that which appears to be the truth, namely,—“We have tempted the people to accept our money at a low interest, with subsequent conditions so onerous that in a short time they must be impoverished for our gain, or for our immediate credit.”

It is almost unnecessary to remind foreign readers that transactions of this kind are radically unsound in principle, and disastrous in their consequences. Many of our Japanese friends do not, however, recognize the danger of continuing this commercial policy, and we may therefore point out to them that exports which yield no returns, either in money or commodities, must drain the nation of its resources and rob the labourer, to enable the government to purchase bullion in London for their requirements with kinsatsu at a better rate than they can in Japan by the same means. If the government were to attempt to purchase bullion in the open ports for remittance to London, the large quantities required would cause the value of their paper to speedily fall below 200, without, be it understood, in any way increasing the quantity in circulation under their present arrangements. The people, therefore, are deceived with regard to the value of the paper for the time, by this trick or scheme to obtain bullion abroad by disguised means, which would be readily seen through if the people would only reflect upon what must be the consequence of a continuation of such transactions; and upon the fact that they are parting with the fruits of their industry for nothing beyond government notes which are irredeemable, even in cases of the utmost urgency, such as famine, war, &c.—Sept. 10.

#### TRADE MARKS.

THE judgment of Consul-General VAN BUREN in the suit of *Raspe v. Copeland*, wherein the plaintiff sought an injunction against the further use, and damages for past use by the defendant, of a certain trade mark alleged to be the property of the Flensburg Brewery, is not so satisfactory as the public seem to think they had a right to expect. This opinion we share to a great extent, though free to confess that it is not clear what other decision could have been arrived at. The injunction prayed for has been granted, but the defendant has escaped, with nominal damages and costs, the consequences of an offence of a serious character, and apparently upon the ground which is regarded as utterly untenable, that he, a brewer, acted carelessly and not maliciously in complying with the request of certain Japanese to place the labels of the Flensburg Brewery upon bottles containing beer belonging to the defendant.

That the plaintiff's case was weak cannot be denied; still the judge appeared satisfied with the evidence, a conclusion to which he was no doubt assisted by the fact that the defendant had pleaded guilty. The question before the court was simply that an alien friend, whom the law of the United States authorizes to assert his rights in the courts equally with a citizen, prayed for relief and protection against the infringement of a trade mark, by the use of which the defendant had deceived the public, and injured the plaintiff. In this country the

forgery of trade marks is carried on without any attempt at concealment. There are factories at work in Tokio, where thousands of copies of any label can be obtained at a few hours notice; and in addition, there is the still greater evil, because the more difficult of detection, of the refilling with inferior liquor of the large number of bottles sold empty with undefaced labels by the servants of foreign consumers. Had the defendant in this cause been an utterly ignorant man, new to the business, there might have been some reason for ascribing his action to carelessness: but the defendant has carried on his business for many years, understands the importance of a trade mark thoroughly well, and, if he be not wholly oblivious to current events, was well acquainted with the complaints made during the past few years of the dishonest practice of Japanese dealers in passing off all manner of spurious compounds under cover of forged trade marks.

The court did not, however, take this view of the matter. There appears to have been some doubt as to the status of the plaintiff in his own country, or in the court of his own country in Japan. That this irrelevant matter was introduced at all is much to be regretted; but that it should have been introduced without steps having been taken to explain the points raised, is lamentable. The judge had previously decided that the common law of the United States takes cognizance of the offence charged: it cannot be disputed that this court is empowered to administer that law as fully as the home courts could do; and further, as an alien in the United States is liable to the law, he is also entitled, as of right, to its protection equally with a citizen. The question could not, therefore, be considered without admitting the dangerous principle that an action brought by an alien may be governed by the law of the nation to which the plaintiff belongs, instead of that of the country before whose court the cause is laid. This position was, it is true, ignored by the judge, but in a manner plainly indicative of some doubt as to the justice of prohibiting a United States citizen from doing that which a German here might do with impunity.

These points having arisen, let us inquire into the position the defendant would have occupied had he been a German, and the plaintiff a United States citizen. Article 17 of the convention between the German Empire and the United States, dated 11 December 1871, provides:—

Touching the marks or labels on goods or on the packages containing said goods; and also touching patterns, and marks of trades or manufactures, the citizens of Germany shall enjoy in the United States of America, and American citizens shall enjoy in Germany, the same protection as native citizens.

Yokohama is Germany or the United States so far as the subjects or citizens of those powers are concerned. Under this convention the German court would be precluded from questioning the status of the plaintiff, and bound, on the prosecution of an American citizen, to administer the law which is defined in the code of criminal procedure to be:—

Art. 1.—Persons can affix a distinctive mark to their goods, upon giving notice to the district court which will cause the same to be entered upon the commercial registry.

Art. 14.—Any person knowingly and unlawfully using a trade mark registered in accordance with the law; affixing the same upon any goods or their packages; or knowingly bring into circulation, or hold for sale, such unlawfully marked goods, will be liable to a penalty of not less than

150 nor exceeding 3,000 marks, with or without imprisonment for a period not exceeding six months; and to pay the injured party for the damage he may have sustained.

Art. 15.—Upon the application of the prosecutor, in addition to the punishment prescribed in the previous article, the offender may be condemned in liquidated damages not exceeding 5,000 marks. For these damages each defendant is separately liable.

German law is, it will be seen, sufficiently stringent in this matter; and there is little doubt that had the defendant in the suit of *Raspe v. Copeland* been a German subject, he would not have escaped with what is justly considered to be nothing more than a reprimand, and a caution not to offend again.

Since the judgment was delivered in this suit Mr. RASPE has received the following note from a gentleman staying at Miyano-shita:—

Seeing your action against Copeland in the papers, I enclose a label taken from a bottle tendered as German beer (Stock beer), to us at Kiga yesterday. The bottle contained Japanese beer and was sold at the same price as Bass' beer. A considerable quantity of same stuff seems to be palmed off on people as German beer, and the perpetrators of such frauds should be severely dealt with.

The defendant Copeland cannot be responsible for this, because he only “used the trade mark labels on a few dozen bottles of beer.” Nevertheless, the label is either genuine, or so exact a copy as to defy the closest scrutiny, while it is equally certain the beer was not Stock beer. The evil is not so confined as it would appear to be; and for years past spurious beer in particular has been found in all parts of the country bearing the trade marks of well known and respectable brewers. To propose to the Japanese government that the offenders should be punished with fine and imprisonment, is unreasonable and self-condemnatory when an American citizen, a principal, or an accessory before and after the fact, escapes with a purely nominal penalty.

Mr. RASPE has done a public service in bringing this action. Before impressing upon the Japanese authorities the importance of a law to protect trade marks, foreigners, who are largely interested, should take steps to bring their own offenders to account. English law is so much to the point that British subjects may well live in wholesome dread of it: what the German law is we can now judge; and it is exceedingly probable the next case in the United States Consular-General Court will show that this dangerous invasion of the rights of property and fraud upon the public, cannot pass without the punishment it richly deserves.—Sept. 10.

#### GOVERNOR HENNESSY'S CHAMPION IN TROUBLE.

OUR irrepressible contemporary of the *Hongkong Telegraph* has allowed his zeal to overrun his discretion in the gratuitous task he has undertaken of whitewashing Governor HENNESSY. The paper made its first appearance on the 15th. June last, and from that time to this it has, in the face of facts, credited that strong minded ruler with virtues he has never possessed, talents he has never displayed, and, with a determination worthy a better cause, has endeavoured to represent the idol of his adoration as—he never was. To effect his purpose he has apparently stuck at nothing. We have twice taken him to task for the scurrilous and brutal language he has used towards the

*China Mail* and *Daily Press*, for no other apparent reason than that those papers do not and cannot see things with his eyes through the medium of rose-coloured spectacles. As might have been anticipated, in the end he went a step too far. On the 2nd. August last he published an article headed "Personal" which well deserved its title for it was personal from beginning to end. In it a free use was made of the names of Mr. H. WICKING, merchant and commission agent, Mr. GEORGE MURRAY BAIN, editor and proprietor, and Mr. ROBERT SMITH, sub-editor of the *China Mail*. The first named gentleman filed an action for wilful and malicious libel in the Supreme Court of Hong Kong and assessed damages at \$1,000. The case was tried on the 25th. and 26th. ulto. before the Hon. J. RUSSELL, acting puisne judge, and a special jury consisting of Messrs. H. G. JAMES, J. A. MOSLEY, and S. G. BIRD. Mr. HAYLLAR, Q.C. appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. J. J. FRANCIS for the defendant. We may here state that the case was first set down for hearing in summary jurisdiction on the 12th. August when, after some discussion, it was agreed that it should be taken before a jury and was eventually tried on the days above named.

The article complained of occupied nearly three columns of closely printed matter and, as Mr. HAYLLAR truly said in opening the case, "it was such a systematical work of art, worked up with such great power of language and invective, that it was difficult to pick out one passage or another which was more libellous than the rest. But summing up the whole article it charged his client with being concerned with some other people in a conspiracy to ruin the defendant in the attempt he was making to establish a newspaper. It would be very difficult to pick out from the three columns the particular phrases or passages upon which his client relied; some were calculated to bring him into public ridicule and contempt, some were calculated to affect him in his business capacity, but they were so carefully put and worked out that it was impossible to pick out one part and base one's case on it." The circumstances which inspired the precious effusion, as far as we can understand, seem to be as follows.

Prior to starting the *Hongkong Telegraph*, Mr. FRASER SMITH obtained a tender from Messrs. DE SOUZA & Co. to print and publish it for a period of six months for \$150 per month. This was accepted and an agreement was drawn up for signature. But before putting his name to it Mr. DE SOUZA asked Mr. WICKING to look over the document to see that it was all right. That gentleman not having any practical knowledge of printing consulted Mr. BAIN, editor and proprietor of the *China Mail*, and eventually addressed the following letter to Mr. DE SOUZA which excited the ire of the projector of the then embryo *Telegraph* :—

4 Club Chambers,

June 7th, 1881.

J. J. DE SOUZA, Esq.

My dear Sir,

Agreeable to your request I have looked over the agreement which Mr. Fraser-Smith submits for your approval and signature; but not being sufficiently well acquainted with the details of your business I cannot form a fair estimate as to what will be the cost of providing the paper in question, but with the hope of getting you the business in question, I consulted with my friend Mr. G. M. Bain, who read the agreement, and

without the least hesitation said it would cost you at least \$350 to \$400 a month to carry out the agreement which you are asked to do for \$150.

Under these circumstances you will doubtless point out to Mr. Fraser-Smith your inability to undertake the matter.

Yours faithfully,

HARRY WICKING.

This letter very naturally had the effect of making Mr. DE SOUZA hesitate to carry out the agreement, whereupon Mr. FRASER-SMITH also very naturally threatened legal proceedings as he had already issued circulars and canvassed for advertisements in anticipation of the appearance of his paper. Mr. DE SOUZA again appealed to Mr. WICKING and the result was another note from that gentleman :—

"Dear SOUZA,

If you have not signed any documents he cannot do anything, he wants you to do for \$150, what will cost you fully \$450, and you would be a fool to undertake it. He cannot do anything so let him threaten, I am too busy to call on you just now.

H. W."

We will now endeavour to cull a few of the objectionable phrases from this intensely "personal" article which led to the prosecution. First and foremost we will give the *Telegraph's* description of the plaintiff which the judge characterised as "objectionable sarcasm," and without which our extracts would be singularly incomplete :—

Mr. Harry Wicking is a gentleman well known in Hongkong. For many years a shopman in a Queen's-road store, he attained some celebrity as factotum and adviser to the late Mr. Kwok Acheong, and afterwards acquired a wide spread fame as a zealous partisan of the now defunct Cosmopolitan Dock Company, of which institution he was facetiously styled the "Consulting Director." Lately he has added to his immense influence by the leading position he is said to have taken in the proposed opposition to the Sugar Refinery, and Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. (against whom the magnificent one has a special animus), and the shareholders of the China Sugar Refining Company are reported to be in a dreadful funk at the probable results of opposition from such a dangerous character.

The *Telegraph* commences its article by expressing its intention "to lay before [its] friends and supporters (who are they?) in "self-defence the details of what has every appearance of being a detestable conspiracy, "organised and carried out with unscrupulous persistency by an interested clique for the "apparent purpose of injuring (that) journal." Later on it is asserted that "Mr. WICKING's "letter commences with a lie, ends with one, "and is one long continued mis-statement "throughout." Again it asks, "does it not "look remarkably like a got-up job, hatched by "the fertile brain of the ubiquitous WICKING?" Again, "if the estimate is really and truly "Mr. BAIN's, that gentleman either is grossly ignorant of a business he pretends to "understand or he deliberately attempted to "ruin the prospects of this paper." Further, "The expenses of printing the *Telegraph* for "the month of July, including extra copies, "supplements, &c. amounted to \$134, (\$151 "the defendant stated in cross-examination in "court) about one third of Mr. G. M. BAIN's "friendly (?) and professional (?) estimate, "and our books are open for the inspection of

"Mr. BAIN or any other gentleman who cares "to inspect them, WICKING alone excepted. "The lion might be tolerated, the jackal "never." Mr. ROBERT SMITH, sub-editor of the *China Mail*, publicly stated that many of the notices in the *Telegraph* were "dummies" which he said he was in a position to prove. The article winds up with the following grand, but touching and pathetic peroration, which we may as well give in *extenso* :—

"Now for results. This public *exposé* of "what we have been called upon to submit to, "is our only remedy. We might sue Mr. "Robert Smith for his slanderous, assertions "and probably would gain a verdict; but with "what result? The sub-editor of the *China "Mail* is avowedly not worth powder and shot, "so in this matter we can only leave him to "crawl in the dust at his superior's feet, an "object of contempt to all right thinking "men.

"We have lived in many lands, and under "various auspices, but we have seen more of "the contemptible side of human nature during "the past six weeks than we ever previously "experienced. It has been said that there are "many persons who are esteemed only because "they are not known. Their real dispositions "are masked so successfully as to be valued "and admired for qualities which they never "possessed. We have to our cost proved the "truth of this.

"Political opinions and social ideas and "views must differ; and a good tempered, "honest guerilla warfare between rival news- "papers is legitimate and commendable "enough, and frequently leads to beneficial "results. But when a greedy, jealous dis- "position, denying to a supposed rival, in "a perfectly free colony, the indisputable "right which every man possesses to earn "his bread in the manner he thinks best, "acts unfairly, the voice of public opinion "should be heard. We deny the right of "the *China Mail* to monopolise all news- "paper rights and privileges in this colony. "We decline to be put down by the too "transparent artifices of Mr. Harry Wicking, "Mr. George Murray Bain, and Mr. Robert "Smith."

We have neither time nor space to give a full report of the trial as published by our Hongkong contemporaries, and in fact it would be superfluous to do so. Suffice it to say, that Messrs. WICKING and BAIN gave their evidence fairly and straightforwardly, and proved beyond a doubt that they were in no way actuated by malice or had in any way entered into a "detestable conspiracy" to ruin the *Telegraph*. The defendant, on the other hand, was frequently rambling and incoherent, not to say contradictory, and (figuratively) winced and floundered like an eel under the scientific handling of the learned counsel for the prosecution. It is but fair to add that the defence was most ably conducted by Mr. FRANCIS.

The presiding judge summed up very fairly and impartially, and in the course of his remarks said that the real sting had been taken out of the case by a disclaimer on the part of the defendant that he had any intention of saying that they were conspirators and apologising if they felt aggrieved. Although an apology had been made in court it was only after the evidence of the other witnesses had gone abroad. His Lordship wound up as follows :—

The only question in the case was as to privileged communication, which was duty and interest on the part of the person making it, and a corresponding duty and interest on the part of the person receiving it. There

had been no case where the principle had been extended to a newspaper article. There was no common interest, no coordinate interest, between Mr. Fraser-Smith and the general public, between Mr. Wicking and Mr. Bain and himself. If these gentlemen had entered into a conspiracy, he had his remedy. If they had libelled him, he had his remedy. They could not set one libel against another. If Mr. Francis wished he would give him an opportunity of arguing the point, but it would not necessitate another jury. Mr. Francis had admitted that the article was defamatory. Then came the question of damages. Assuming for a moment that it was not justified, they would have to consider what damages the plaintiff had suffered. If they considered that there was a libel and that it was not justified and that the defendant had repeated it, that was to be taken as aggravation of damages. If they found no malice, then they would reduce the damages. In the case of a privileged communication the plaintiff would have to show that there was express malice.

The following questions were then put to the jury. The answers are appended.

1.—Do you find that the libel or libels complained of are true?—No.

2.—Assuming that the occasion was justified or privileged, do you find that the defendant printed and published defamatory matter *bona fide* for the purpose of vindicating himself, or was he actuated by malice?—Without malice.

3.—What damages, if any, do you award the plaintiff?—\$250.

His Lordship gave judgment accordingly and certified for the costs of counsel and special jury.

With the result of the action we think no one can disagree. It is manifestly certain that the defendant does not, as he has since swallowed something more than an average allowance of that not very palatable dainty, commonly called "humbug pie." His issue of the 29th. ult. contains a most apologetic article in which the *amende honorable* is most amply made to Messrs. WICKING and BAIN. We hope our headstrong contemporary has learnt a lesson that he will not soon forget, viz., that what is vulgarly called "gutter literature" is no more appreciated in this part of the world than it is at home. If he wishes to "bolster up" Governor HENNESSY let him do so by all means; it pleases him and hurts no one, except perhaps the object of his rash and ill-advised adulation. No one appreciates the liberty of the press more than ourselves; we at all times approve and encourage fair outspoken criticism and censure on public men and public measures when deserved; but we have a most thorough contempt for that system of low, scurrilous abuse and insulting offensive personalities which made the defunct *Tokio Times* an object of loathing and disgust to all right-thinking persons, and which has just imposed on the *Hong Kong Telegraph* all the trouble and expense of an action for libel.—Sept. 10.

## BRITISH COLONIAL POLICY.

### I.

THE colonial system is perhaps rather too foreign a subject for discussion here. Yet, as we are not so very far removed from a crown colony with which we have close commercial relations, and from which many a wail flies over the water on the high-handed proceedings of its rulers, a word or two on the question may possibly be not out of place.

Our attention has been called to the matter by the perusal of a pamphlet entitled *British Colonial Policy*, by Sir DAVID WEDDERBURN, BART., M.P., issued under the auspices of the National Liberal Federation. This brochure seems to have been inspired mainly by the difficulties which the British government have had to encounter in South Africa. With what the author says on that point we agree in the main, and consider his estimate of the lines of policy successively pursued by the cabinets of LORD BEACONSFIELD and MR. GLADSTONE a very fair one. He draws a very gloomy picture of the present condition and future prospects of Cyprus which he concludes by saying that, "neither the method by which Cyprus was obtained, nor the tenure by which it is held, under the *suzerainete* of the Sultan, can be regarded as satisfactory, and the only apparent reason for keeping it is the difficulty of finding any one to take it off our hands." We imagine it would be rather difficult to find any nation fool-hardy enough to take over such a fever-stricken swamp. Sir DAVID is not very sanguine of Fiji either although he hopes it will prosper. But then, as he says, there is the "christianising and civilising mission" to be carried out—a mission which always in Australasia has resulted in the gradual extinction of the native races. The free colonies—that is, those enjoying "responsible government"—in Australia and New Zealand are shown to have used their liberty very badly. The aggregate population of the six Australian colonies (including Tasmania) in 1878 was a little over two millions whilst their aggregate public debt was £45,000,000. New Zealand, with a population (including Maoris) of less than half a million had in 1878 a public debt of £22,608,311, and New Zealand has not yet existed forty years as a separate colony. The annual expenditure of these colonies, according to Sir DAVID WEDDERBURN "continues to exceed their income; and the consequent increase of indebtedness is not the worst feature of the case for a large proportion of the revenue is derived from land sales—a source of supply liable to exhaustion in all colonies, and in certain colonies already almost exhausted." By way of illustration, our author says:—

"Thus in 1877 the gross amount of public revenue for the Australasian colonies was £17,800,000, of that amount rather less than one-third being raised by actual taxation. In 1878 the 'ordinary' expenditure of New Zealand, in a time of profound peace, exceeded the revenue by nearly £200,000 while the expenditure out of 'loans for public works' was £1,786,992. New Zealand has a great future before her, but that future has been gravely compromised by a reckless financial policy, which has already expended a large portion of her splendid patrimony, the public lands, and has saddled the community with a public debt just twice as heavy per head as that of the United Kingdom. In fact the most promising of all our colonies, on account of natural advantages, is now in proportion to population, the most heavily indebted country in the world. The 'net indebtedness' of the colony, including the old provincial government loans, has been stated by the Agent-General for New Zealand as amounting on 30th. June 1879, to £21,513,303.14s.-5d."

Sir DAVID WEDDERBURN then goes on to show how this "indebtedness" was brought about and draws a curious picture of reckless extravagance upon which, it seems, an effective check has at length been placed in the shape of a heavy tax upon property. It is to

be hoped that the effect of this import will be to open the eyes of the New Zealand people, and to bring about economy and retrenchment.

Here we will stop for the present. Later on we will see what Sir DAVID WEDDERBURN has to say about crown colonies and their peculiar form of government. We may premise that it is a part of his story which he is rather inclined to slur over. He has evidently not had the pleasure of living in one of them; if he had, he would probably have something to say on that species of "mild despotism" under which our neighbours in Hongkong are now writhing. But let that pass. More hereafter.—Sept. 12.

### II.

TO return once more to Sir DAVID WEDDERBURN's pamphlet on *British Colonial Policy*. In spite of drawbacks in the way of "indebtedness" the author claims an almost unqualified success for the line of policy which has been carried out in the very colonies which are now suffering from that most common of all diseases—impecuniosity. He grows quite gushing on the subject and only wishes the same system could be extended to other quarters of the globe, and then, according to him, the millennium would not be far off. But he seems to think it could not; why or wherefore is not clear. Here is a sample of Sir DAVID's sentimentalism:—

"Especially of Australia can it truly be said that in the great islands of the Southern Ocean a young England has arisen, cherishing for old England the affection of a daughter, not the jealousy of a rival. A mighty nation has been already founded—a nation looking to England as a model in politics, in art, in literature, even in sports—living our life, thinking our thoughts, reading our books, and gradually transforming, as far as nature will permit, the new world at the antipodes into the likeness of the old home-land."

Sir JAMES MACKINTOSH (quoted by our author) thus enunciates his own system of colonial policy:—"A full and efficient protection from all foreign influence; full permission to conduct the whole of their own internal affairs; compelling them to pay all the reasonable expenses of their own government, and giving them at the same time a perfect control over the expenditure of the money; and imposing no restrictions of any kind upon the industry or traffic of the people." These maxims were proclaimed in the House of Commons in 1828, and Sir DAVID WEDDERBURN takes upon himself to assert that, during the half-century which has elapsed, "they have found general acceptance with the Liberal party under whose auspices the British Empire has been administered during the greater part of that period." Really Sir DAVID, this is too, too utter—bosh! "General acceptance," that is, *theoretic* acceptance, they may have met with; but, as regards crown colonies, they have certainly not been acted on by either Conservatives or Liberals. This, we will endeavour to prove.

First and foremost, what are crown colonies? Sir DAVID gives the answer. "Crown Colonies" are those "where legislation and administration are alike under the home government, by whom all public officers are appointed." The principal crown colonies are Ceylon, Jamaica, Mauritius, Hongkong and the Straits Settlements. The worthy baronet evidently thinks the

less said about crown colonies the better. Beyond asserting their general prosperity and freedom from debt in support of which he quotes some very reliable figures, he maintains a wise silence; how wise he probably little thinks. Let us endeavour to find out for ourselves what kind of Utopia a crown colony is. In order to do this we must again refer to the words of Sir JAMES MACKINTOSH, transposing them, for the sake of emphasis, into the form of question and answer:—

Is a "full and efficient protection from all foreign influence" afforded to crown colonies? "Protection" is afforded, but whether it is "full and efficient" is not quite clear; that it is costly is clear enough. Here are the nice little sums disbursed annually by the crown colonies above named, by way of "military contributions" to the Imperial government:—Ceylon £130,000; Jamaica nothing, no troops supplied; Mauritius £45,000; Hongkong £20,000 and the Straits Settlements £50,000.

Have these colonies "full permission to conduct the whole of their own internal affairs"? Certainly not: how, or in what way they have not will appear later on.

Have they a perfect control over the expenditure of their own money? No. The Colonial Secretary of State interferes very considerably with their cash boxes.

The governor of a crown colony is appointed by Letters Patent under the Great Seal. He rules in the QUEEN'S name and, whilst invested with ample power and authority, there are, in theory, three checks to control his actions. We say "in theory" because *practically* they are of little avail. These checks are, an executive council to aid him with their advice, a legislative council to assist him in making laws, and a colonial secretary of state to confirm or annul his actions. Let us endeavour to find out how much they are worth. The executive council of a crown colony consists of some half-dozen senior officials whose prospects in life depend almost solely on the governor who has it in his power very materially to ruin them if he thinks fit. Para. 73 Chap. 4 of the Colonial Regulations directs the governor of a colony to furnish an annual *Confidential report* on the characters and qualifications of the whole of his subordinates and it is on this that their chances for promotion and advancement mainly rest. What more powerful weapon could be put into the hands of a governor for making an executive council see things with his eyes; what more perfect contrivance could there be for making a body of men subservient to the will or caprice of another? A high-minded honourable ruler would scorn to use it as a means of giving stabs in the dark; an unscrupulous one would probably hesitate at nothing of the kind. All things considered, with such a sword of Damocles hanging over their heads, much independence of thought or opinion is not to be expected from the ordinary run of executive councils in crown colonies.

The Legislative Council of a crown colony consists of about sixteen members of whom at least ten are officials and the rest private persons, generally leading merchants whose knowledge and experience of the wants and requirements of the colony justly entitle them to a seat in the local Parliament. The official members have no independence; they are only a set of puppets whose strings are pulled by the governor. The Duke of Buckingham, when colonial secretary of state, issued a circular directing official members of coun-

cil to vote as they are ordered by the governor under pain of immediate suspension, and perhaps, ultimate dismissal from office. The un-official members owe their position to the governor with whom the nomination rests; they are usually on easy, if not, friendly terms with him, and are therefore not very likely to oppose any measure he may think fit to introduce. But even if they are public spirited enough to stand up for their own independence and the interests of the community what is the consequence? The official phalanx outnumbered them by about two to one, are better disciplined and have to vote as they are directed; defeat is therefore an absolute certainty. There is consequently nothing in the world to prevent an unprincipled governor or an overbearing secretary of state—for most colonial ordinances are concocted in Downing Street—from forcing any measure upon a colony, no matter how monstrous it may be. The people may hold indignation meetings, the press may storm and thunder and the un-officials may remonstrate and protest until they are black in the face; but no matter, the *fiat*, either of Government House or of Downing Street, has gone forth and, thanks to the *mechanical* voting of official members it becomes law. This is no exaggeration; during a prolonged residence in two crown colonies not, very far distant from here, we have known such things to happen more than once or twice. So much for the legislative council being a check on the governor of a crown colony.

The third check is that of the Secretary of State who approves or disapproves, confirms or annuls the acts of a colonial governor. He is far away, and has probably scarcely any other source of information than that of the despatches of the official on whom he sits in judgment which, perhaps, are not always models of candour and truthfulness; he knows little and cares still less about the colony or its people and is therefore not likely to be a more effective check on a governor than the other two above described.

As to crown colonies having a perfect control over the expenditure of their own money they have nothing of the kind. A Secretary of State generally has a number of *protégés* to provide for, and crown colonies afford him many splendid facilities of doing so. As soon as a vacancy is reported to him, instead of allowing it to be filled up in rotation by one of the hard-working officials who have long borne the heat and burden of the day, he sends out one of his "curled darlings" who is as much fitted for it as a square peg would be in a round hole. But the colony has to take him nevertheless and, what is worse, to pay him a liberal salary. If this is not unwarrantable interference with the cash-box of a colony we know not what else to call it. This is only one instance; there are other ways in which a Secretary of State freely handles a colonial exchequer which need not be here discussed, though we may incidentally mention that LORD KIMBERLEY has only recently ordered the colony of the Straits Settlements to pay the whole cost of the Perak war of 1875-6—a war that was waged in defence of Imperial policy and *not* in the interests of the colony. His Lordship says, in effect, that they *must* pay because they *can* and the British taxpayer *won't*. We may add that the colonial office has grown so greedy of patronage that it has not, and does not, scruple to usurp even the filling up of such small posts as inspectorships of police.

Little more need he said. The assertions we have made are borne out by facts; and

the opinions we have expressed of that covert despotism, that *imperium in imperio*, euphemistically termed crown-colony government, are based on experience acquired in a residence in two of them extending over a period of thirteen years. Those who desire to judge for themselves have only to turn over the files of the Hongkong papers for the past four or five years to see a picture of high-handed autocracy far more in accordance with "Holy and Humane Russia" than with what one would expect to see in a colony or dependency belonging to a country which boasts of enjoying the *ne plus ultra* of civil, political and religious liberty. We have extended our remarks to a greater length than we intended; for this we trust our readers will excuse us. It is a subject on which we feel strongly and one which cannot altogether be void of interest to any Englishmen, more especially as it is quite "on the cards" that Yokohama *may* one day become a British crown colony, perhaps not in our time, but the contingency is possible if not probable.—Sept. 17.

### THE WHISPERING AWAY OF REPUTATIONS.

"Good name in man and woman, dear my lord,  
Is the immediate jewel of their souls."

THE above is the title of an article which appeared more than two years ago in the columns of *Vanity Fair*. We have taken the liberty to appropriate it (the title, *not* the article,) to our own use as it chimes in with what we are about to write much more suitably than any other we are able to think of.

*Vanity Fair* is a "society" journal and with "society" journals, as a rule, we have very little sympathy; they are evidently meant to pander to a morbid taste; they all deal in frivolous club gossip, and one of them has a knack of saying nasty things within an ace of libel which it is often forced to retract. We have frequently heard of Satan reproving sin and quoting scripture to his own advantage; whether he does so or not is a question for theologians to decide. It seems however that the class of papers above referred to, probably in their remorseful moods, sometimes bear witness against themselves. *Vanity Fair* has done so, and has spoken so much to the point that we have decided on taking its words as the keynote of our remarks on a detestable habit which is the bane of society in this, as it is in all small communities:—

"If there is a tendency in modern life to suppress the grosser and more brutal vices, there is unquestionably also a tendency to develop those that are meanest, basest, and most cowardly. Highway robbery is replaced by cheating, adulteration and swindling; open violence by secret plotting; assault and battery by innuendo and slander. It is as if all that boldness which once gave a manly flavour to aggression were lost and replaced by skulking cowardice; as though the courage that dared to meet and fight an enemy were lost, and had left behind only the miserable resource of a stab in the dark—and instant flight. But what is at once most wonderful and most shameful is that the stab is delivered not even upon an enemy, but at random upon anybody—even upon one called a friend—merely out of idleness, to while away five minutes of gossip, calmly, lightly, carelessly, as though there were nothing in it but what is usual and natural."



Will anyone, who has been here any length of time, venture to assert that this is not a true picture of what is only too common amongst, at least, the British residents of Yokohama? Whilst we are naturally averse to discuss social matters in the columns of a journal devoted principally to the interests of trade and commerce we do not forget that there are other matters which claim our attention besides rates of exchange, prices current, &c. &c. When there is an evil lurking in our midst it is our duty to expose and, if possible, eradicate it. It becomes us also to approve what is right and to condemn what is wrong at all hazards. The habit of gossip and scandal-mongering has arrived at such a pass in this settlement that we can no longer remain silent. "Stabs in the dark" are neither few nor far between; characters are freely discussed and reputations blasted for no other reason than to "while away five minutes of gossip." With some unprincipled slanderers, it is no exaggeration to say, that scarcely any man's, much less any woman's, good name is safe. The business is so artistically managed that the traducer, in nine cases out of ten, escapes detection. It is all done by shrugs and winks; hints and insinuations, such as:—"There must be something in it—and I hear that this, that, or the third thing is the case and that So-and-so, and So-and-so are mixed up in it. You mustn't it say I said so, for indeed I know nothing about it at all; but it is very odd that Smith should have done this and that, and of course you know Smith is a great friend of Jones's." And so the impalpable, monstrous thing goes on. Nobody professes to believe it, nobody makes himself or herself responsible for the supposed facts—all is repeated as mere baseless gossip, heard anywhere, retailed anyhow, but nevertheless believed to the cost of the hapless victims:—

"There is a lust in man no charm can tame,  
Of loudly publishing his neighbour's shame;—  
On eagle's wings immortal scandals fly  
While virtuous actions are but born to die."

The *Family Herald*, that "joy to tens of thousands of innocent households" as the *Saturday Review* once gushingly described it, in one of its earlier volumes went so far as to insinuate that this selfsame system of gossip and scandal-mongering is a dispensation of Providence, inasmuch as many people who are impervious to the voice of conscience or the teachings of religion are kept in the right path from fear of being talked about by their neighbours. This idea, at any rate has the merit of originality. In our humble opinion, however, the person who refrains from wrong-doing for no higher reason than to stop the mouth of Mrs. GRUNDY is no more really virtuous than the thief who abstains from stealing through dread of the policeman, or the murderer who suspends his knife on account of a very natural terror caused by more or less distinct visions of a hangman's rope around his neck.

To take the matter in a common sense point of view what earthly excuse can be alleged for the practice? It may be answered "people will talk." Very likely; there is not the slightest harm in their talking—as long as proper subjects are chosen; and there can, or ought to be, no difficulty on that head. There are papers enough and to spare published in Yokohama, and many others are constantly arriving from all parts of the world by each mail. Moreover, are we not almost daily receiving telegrams which afford ample topics, for both reflection and conversation, relative to stirring events which are taking place in more than one quarter of

the globe? From amidst all this people ought to find something more important to talk about than the faults and shortcomings of their neighbours. If they must remove the mote from their brothers' eyes let them first of all get rid of the huge balk that obscures their own vision.

For the present we have said enough. We will therefore close these remarks by another quotation from *Vanity Fair* which entirely re-echoes our own opinion. "A sentence in a newspaper may be seen, known, and dealt with as it requires; but the secret whispers of slander that are passed from mouth to ear in the ante-chambers of society cannot be handled or caught by the victim. Yet these—and not any newspaper paragraphs—are what do the most cruel injury; by these many a good man and woman has been ruined without remedy or appeal, and by these many more will be ruined unless and until it is recognised to be the duty of all, not merely to refuse to be the vehicle for transmitting such whispers but to stop and to discredit them and their bearers by an instant, indignant repudiation of all endurance of them."—Sept. 19.

## Reviews.

### CHUANG TSZE\*.

PROFESSOR Max Müller, in the first of a series of able lectures on the Science of Religion delivered at the Royal Institution in 1870, lays it down as "the duty of those who have devoted their life to the study of the principal religions of the world in their original documents, and who value religion and reverence it in whatever form it may present itself, to take possession of this new territory in the name of true science, and thus to protect its sacred precincts from the inroad of those who think they have a right to speak on the ancient religions of mankind, whether those of the Brahmins, the Zoroastrians, or Buddhists, or even those of the Jews and Christians, without ever having taken the trouble of learning the languages in which their sacred books are written." The task thus marked out is truly a herculean one; the harvest plentiful and the labourers (comparatively) few, but those few have nobly performed their self-imposed duty. A generation or two ago, the western world knew very little of the ancient creeds of the east, and of those of China still less. Thanks however, to the unwearying labours of the Revs. Dr. Legge and J. Chalmers, Messrs. Edkins, Davids, Alabaster, Mayers, &c. the system of religion and philosophy which prevailed in the "Flowery Land" at a period long prior to the Christian era has been unveiled before us, and whosoever will may gain almost as clear an insight into their polemics as the Celestials themselves possess.

The work before us is one of the latest contributions to this class of literature and is certainly one that will be eagerly welcomed by, and certainly deserves the careful reading of, every student of comparative theology.

\* *The Divine Classic of Nan-Hua; being the works of Chuang Tse, Taoist Philosopher. With an Excursus, and Copious Annotations in English and Chinese.* By Frederick Henry Balfour, F. R. G. S., author of *Waifs and Strays from the far East, Sermons never preached, &c.* Shanghai and Hongkong: Kelly and Walsh. Yokohama: Kelly & Co. London. Trübner & Co. 1881.

Mr. Balfour has long been favorably known by his previous works, and it is not too much to say that the amount of labour and research displayed in this admirable translation of the works of Chuang Tse, the Taoist philosopher, will not only confirm the reputation he has hitherto enjoyed but will indelibly stamp him as a Chinese scholar far above the average.

To make a complete analysis of Mr. Balfour's book is beyond our ability. We will, however, endeavour to give our readers an idea of its contents sufficient to enable them to appreciate its value and to induce them to examine its pages.

"The Divine Classic of Nan-Hua," according to Mr. Balfour, consists of six volumes subdivided into thirty-three chapters. To these Mr. Balfour has prefixed an *excursus* which contains so much curious and valuable information, and is so essential to the adequate understanding and appreciation of what follows that we need offer no apology for giving it an extended notice.

We may premise that, in clear, forcible and well-chosen language, it gives a concise but complete review of the Confucian and Taoist systems of philosophy, as well as of their partial absorption, partial supersession by Buddhism which was introduced into China from India.

The scene opens in China five hundred years before the birth of Christ. Our author reminds us, that at this period there was a great revival of thought in Europe when schools of philosophy were in process of establishment under Plato, Socrates, and Aristotle—schools that were destined to exercise an influence upon the world at large "not for an age but for all time." Or, as Mr. Balfour eloquently expresses it, "the philosophy of Pythagoras struck a chord whose vibrations resounding ever since along the corridors of thought, and are even now awakening echoes in the minds of modern thinkers." A wave of mental activity seems to have swept over the civilized world, and to have included in its wide sweep, countries both unknown and unthought of by the scholars of Rome and Greece. At this time the feudal system still prevailed in China; the country was divided into duchies, each subject to its own particular duke and paying very inconstant loyalty to its true lord the nominal king of China. This was an age of what has been called "barbaric splendour—an age of China's chivalry. Civil wars were frequent and fierce; warriors and nobles decked themselves in plumes and streamers; ladies and princesses flaunted silks and jewels in the sunlight; war chariots rattled gaily through the streets, and temples resounded with the music of drums and bells. It was an epoch of lawlessness in which might was right. Philosophy there was none, or if there was, it was in a state of embryo. A people so much set on acquiring material, had no time to trouble themselves about intellectual wealth.

In the midst of this brilliant but barbarous age, there arose the Prophet of China. No pretence whatever is made to there having been anything miraculous about his birth, as is commonly the case with founders of religious systems. He appears to have entered this "world of woe and sin" just as quietly and unostentatiously as most of us have done. The youth and childhood of the future Sage is thus graphically described by Mr. Balfour:—

"Among the petty mandarins in the state of Lu, then feudatory to His Sovereign Highness Duke Siang, but now part of Shantung, there was a young man holding

"the office of keeper of the granaries, who commenced at the age of twenty to attract attention by the decided bent of an undeniably vigorous mind. This lad, who was born when his father was upwards of seventy-one, had displayed as a child many of those peculiarities common to the offspring of very old men. He appears to have been what we should call now-a-days an old-fashioned, perhaps even priggish boy; his favourite amusement being to copy the sacrificial and religious rites he saw practised by his elders, in much the same way as English children might play at church-services, arrayed in the mimic pomp of sham sacerdotal robes. This predilection developed itself when the youth was about twenty years old in a serious attempt at preaching. Gathering a number of lads and young men around him he would hold discourses with them for hours together, uttering some obscure and sententious platitudes and then replying to the questions propounded to him in relation to the subject of his text."

Like the Jewish Rabbi who talked with another and greater Reformer than Confucius, the "lads and young men" who conversed with the latter were, no doubt, "astonished at his understanding and answers" though Mr. Balfour has not recorded the circumstance. "Nothing" says Mr. Balfour, "however, could be less speculative or transcendental than the teaching of the young man-darin." He was nothing if he was not political and mundane. Did we not know the impossibility of the thing, it would have been curious to speculate as to whether Shakspeare was, or was not, familiar with the works of Confucius. These two great men who lived so far apart, both as regards time and country, were singularly at one on the subject of music. Shakspeare says:—

"The man that hath no music in himself,  
Nor is not mov'd with concord of sweet sounds,  
Is fit for treasons, stratagems and spoils;  
The motions of his spirit are as dull as night,  
And his affections dark as Erebus:  
Let no such man be trusted."

Confucius did not express himself quite so concisely, but what he said amounts to much the same thing. According to Mr. Balfour, he was a musician, fond of singing, and an efficient performer on the musical stones and harpsichord. No coarse or vulgar person, he considered, had any right to intermeddle with this divine accomplishment. His reflections on music are translated as follows:—

"When affairs cannot be carried on to success, proprieties and music will not flourish. When proprieties and music do not flourish, punishments will not be properly awarded. It is by the Odes that the mind is aroused; it is by the rules of propriety that the character is established; it is from music that the finish is received. If a man be without the virtues proper to harmony, what has he to do with music."

The analogy in the foregoing passages cannot fail to strike the most superficial observer.

Mr. Balfour, at this stage, very carefully and minutely undertakes to analyse the distinguishing characteristics of the teachings of Confucius. If he did not originate, he certainly inculcated the worship of ancestors with much stress. He appears also to have believed in the existence of guardian spirits as much as Roman Catholics do, only in a different form. Every officer and every private individual in the Empire, according to the Sage has his correlate deity in the spirit world. The Emperor, who is in some way

the Son of Heaven, has also his tutelar divinity though on that point Confucius is somewhat hazy. His idea of heaven is poetic but indistinct and generic or elastic. Translators seem to be rather at variance as to what his theory of "eternal bliss" really was.

Mr. Balfour alludes to a widely spread idea that Confucius was a confirmed agnostic, in which he says there is much truth. Confucius was not a mere materialist in the sense in which the term is now understood. That he firmly believed in a spirit world and therefore in a future state of immortality is plain enough. With regard to the nature, existence and attributes of the Supreme Being he never seems to have troubled himself. Like Professors Huxley, Tyndall, and those who think with them, he believed in the existence of a First Cause, of whom or of which he knew nothing and sought not to enquire. The future life to him was shadowy, unreal. His teaching was essentially practical and worldly; he laid the greatest stress upon duties connected with temporal matters and expressly discountenanced all tendencies to speculate on visionary and spiritual questions. To do his duty, in the world and to the world, in accordance with his favourite principles of virtue and propriety, was the object he set before himself and all who listened to his words; and, being dead for now upwards of two thousand years, he "yet speaketh" to three hundred millions of the human race.

About the same time that Confucius was inculcating his doctrines of worldly wisdom in the state of Lu, there arose another teacher in a neighbouring province whose doctrines were in direct opposition to those of the philosopher whose life and works we have briefly discussed. Like his great rival, he also was a petty mandarin, holding the office of Recorder in Loh, the capital of the reigning dynasty. Such employment soon proved too prosaic for one so aesthetic. He soon retired from his post and devoted himself to the study of the Abstract and the Sublime. Mr. Balfour thus briefly intimates the difference between the two rival schools of thought:—

"If Confucius and his following represented the Socratic school of China, the founder of Taoism was the correlative of his contemporary Heraclitus. He resembled him in his contempt for all human pursuits, for the political sagacity of his fellow-citizens and the speculations of all other philosophers as having mere learning for their object instead of the truest wisdom. His works resembled those of the Greek philosopher in that they exhibit a broken and concise style, hinting, rather than explaining, his opinions, which are often conveyed in mythical and half oracular images, the ambiguity of which obtained for him the surname, among the Greeks of his day, of 'The Obscure.' According to both, the discovery of the groundwork and principle of all things was the main end and object of research, and the element of mysticism formed the chief factor in their philosophical speculations."

Of the real history of the Taoist sage very little seems to be known beyond the fact that his name was Li or Lao and that his parents were in a humble sphere of life. The story of his birth and career is enveloped in a mass of fable of the most marvellous and astounding nature. We are called upon to believe that his mother was pregnant for eighty years: that when he was born—which strange to say, in spite of an unusually long period of pregnancy, seems to have taken his mother

quite by surprise one day when sitting under a plum tree—he appeared with snowy hair and beard, bearing all the marks of age. His departure from this world was no less remarkable than his entrance into it. After a life of miracles—miracles which rival and even surpass those of the Founder of Christianity—he disappeared from view, riding towards the western heavens upon a blue cow. In writing of Taoism or any other ancient or mediæval religious system we have no wish to be profane, but we cannot help remarking that the laws of gravity seem to have been frequently and strangely violated in prehistoric ages of the world. The worst of it is, there are those who tell us we must either believe these strange inconsistencies—to put it mildly or be—"damned." But let that pass. Let us return to the subject in hand.

Wild and impossible as is the legend of the birth of this philosopher, it, at any rate, suggested his name which was, Lao Tsze or the Old Child. The word or character *Tsze*, Mr. Balfour states, is also the equivalent of Master or Philosopher and that by the above title the Chinese probably meant the Old Philosopher or the Philosopher Tao.

"When Greek meets Greek &c. &c." The rival philosophers, Confucius and Tao Tsze, once had an interview. The former had heard of the fame of the latter and, like the Queen of Sheba, journeyed to Loh "to see whether the things which he had seen and heard were so or not." A distinct account of their meeting seems not to have been handed down to posterity but a very animated discussion is said to have taken place between these learned men, though neither succeeded in convincing or demolishing the position of the other. This is not to be wondered at for who ever heard of controversialists, either in ancient or modern times, being open to conviction? When that blissful state of affairs comes about, Utopia will be about realized and the end of the world not far off.

The teachings of Tao Tsze are comprehended in the term *Taoism*. Concerning its derivation and primitive meaning, Mr. Balfour writes as follows:—

"To convey a clear idea of his teachings in a few words is a task of no small difficulty. The very *Tao*, which gives its name to the sect of which he was the founder, is incapable of being rendered by any one English equivalent. Its primary signification is simply 'road.' In the 'Four Books,' as in those of the school we are considering, it is sometimes used in the sense of process: the following out of a direction or route. The *Tao* of Chu Futsze is a cosmogonical expression, and means the *process of law*, the operations of nature. The *Tao* of Confucius is the path of rectitude, propriety, and duty; but in the works of Taoism proper it bears a more esoteric meaning, though even here it must be variously rendered in various places. It is a sublimated phase of the Confucian T'ien; the source and origin of all things in the visible universe, the Eternal not—ourselves that makes for righteousness in the moral world. 'The Tao that can be reasoned about,' commences the philosopher in majestic cadences, 'is not the Eternal Tao; the name that can be named is not the Eternal Name. That which had no name before the existence of Heaven and Earth, being named is [found to be] the mother of all things. In eternal non-existence, therefore, man seeks to pierce the primordial mystery;

"and in eternal existence to behold the 'issue of the universe.'"

Some of our readers may be surprised to learn that the Golden Rule enunciated by Christ was not original. It was formulated by Confucius five centuries before the Saviour appeared on earth. "Master," said the disciple Tsze Kung, "is there one word which may serve as a rule of practice for one's whole life?" The reply of the Sage is imperishable. "Is not reciprocity such a word?" said he; "what you do not want done to yourself, that do not do to others." Tao Tsze went a step further and anticipated almost the exact words of Our Lord containing the injunction to do good for evil, a precept which met with anything but favor from Confucius. "No," said he, "with what then will you recompense kindness? Recompense kindness with kindness, but recompense injury with justice."

Our readers will now be able to understand with tolerable clearness the radical difference between the ethics of Confucius and Lao Tze. "Confucius with sceptical 'humility of true Socratic vein, inculcated 'precepts bearing on the guidance of the mind 'and heart, the conduct of the individual, the 'administration of the realm, and suchlike 'commonplace and practical affairs, virtually 'ignoring the unseen side of nature as a matter of which man knew nothing, and about 'which it was foolish and unnecessary to 'trouble oneself. In sharp and hostile contrast to all this came the strong utterances 'of the Taoist school, which appealed to the 'mystic and speculative tendencies of the 'Chinese. The world was vain; its pleasures 'were illusory, its cares unreal; nothing visible was worth the attention of the true philosopher; only in the withdrawal of the mind 'from every earthly object, and its absorption 'in the great realities of the spirit-world, was 'bliss obtainable." Like Christianity and every other pure and elevating system of morality or religion, Taoism fell from its first estate and became corrupted in course of time or, as Mr. Balfour expresses it, the history of Taoism became a history of credulity and imposture. "The philosopher's stone, or 'elixir of gold—the source of personal sublimation and immortality, then first came 'into imaginary existence, and to this, a 'purely Chinese superstition, may be traced 'the strange enthusiasm which has since 'enchained so many victims in Arabia and 'Europe."

Rip Van Winkle, singular to say, had his prototype in a Taoist patriarch named Wang Chih, who lived under the dynasty of Tsin. By the way, the somniferous old fossil was not singular in the last named particular; do not theologians tell us that we are all born and living under the dynasty of (T)sin? The legend is thus related by the late Mr. Mayers:—

"Wandering one day upon some mountains in search of fuel, he discovered a 'grotto in which were seated several aged 'men intent on a game of chess. He 'laid down his axe, entered the cave, and 'looked on at the game, in the course of 'which one of the old men handed him something in shape and size like a date-stone, 'telling him to put it in his mouth. No 'sooner had he tasted it than he became 'oblivious of hunger and thirst. After some 'time had elapsed, one of the players looked 'up at him, and said. It is a long while since 'you came here; you should go home 'now!" Whereupon Wang Chih, proceeding to pick up his axe, found that its 'handle had mouldered into dust. On

"repairing to his house he discovered that 'centuries had passed since the time when 'he had left it for the mountains, and that 'no vestige of his kinsmen remained. 'Returning to a retreat among the hills he 'thereupon devoted himself to the rites of 'Taoism and finally attained immortality."

It would be both unnecessary and wearisome to enter into the many wild vagaries to which Taoism ultimately descended after the death of its founder. Old-fashioned Calvinists who may happen to read either this review or Mr. Balfour's book will no doubt be delighted to hear that it was "sound" on the comfortable doctrine of eternal punishment which Canon Farrar, one of the foremost scholars and most liberal-minded theologians of the age, has done his best to demolish. The minuteness with which the tortures of the "damned" are detailed in a well-known Taoist work is enough to freeze one's blood though, honestly speaking, many parallel passages are to be met with in the "awakening" sermons of Jonathan Edwards, Spurgeon, Moody and other noted "revivalists."

Any notice of Mr. Balfour's ably-written and instructive *excursus* would be singularly incomplete without some mention of the eloquent passage in which he describes the introduction of Buddhism from India into China and the effect it produced on Confucianism and Taoism. We will reproduce it in order that our readers may form their own opinions of its merits:—

"It would however, be erroneous to conclude that because, of the two great philosophic codes which have arisen in China, 'the more practical has lived while the more 'transcendental has decayed and virtually 'exploded, the Chinese have therefore no 'outlet for their higher religious and spiritual faculties. At the very time when 'Taoism had lost all that was purest and 'best about it, and its degeneracy had set in 'with a rapidity which shut out all hopes 'of any restoration, there began to be felt 'the influences of a foreign, but most elevated and beautiful, religious creed. About 'the year 60 of our era, the Emperor Ming 'Ti, (Bright or Illustrious Monarch,) the 'second sovereign of the posterior Han, 'caused the books of the new Indian Gospel 'to be brought from the neighbouring empire; an event which ushered in a fresh 'epoch in the intellectual life of China, and 'opened the eyes of the Chinese to a softer 'and a sweeter light than they had ever 'gazed upon before. The Confucian, proud 'in his possession of matchless wisdom, no 'less than the Taoist, losing himself in the 'nebulae of hocus-pocus and mysticism, heard, 'for the first time, of Self-sacrifice in its 'sublimest form. They heard how the 'Grand Being, the Infinitely Meritorious, 'the Perfection of Power, the Lord Excelling All, moved with compassion towards 'mankind enchained in the ocean of ever-circling existence, abandoned the glories of 'the Tushita Heavens, the Paradise of Pure 'Content, and was conceived in the world 'of man. They listened to the story of his 'miraculous birth, the brilliancy of his royal 'career, his voluntary relinquishment of all 'that made life happy, his adoption of 'monasticism, his mendicancy, his mortifications in the struggle to vanquish sin, 'his fierce conflicts with the Tempter, his 'universal love of others, his prolific alms, 'his thousand merits, and his final victory; 'and as they pondered, a new and purer 'ray appeared to dawn upon their souls. 'The mighty sounds of angelic music, the

"showers of blooming lotuses, the harmonious clanging of jewels, and the many 'other marvels which, according to the 'Indian legend, occurred to signalise the 'birth of Sakya Buddha, found an analogue 'in the newly awakened moral and religious 'instincts of the people. The story swept 'a chord hitherto untouched by the cold 'precepts of Confucius, even by the more 'attractive teachings of Lao Kün. The 'religious life of China was revolutionised. 'Multitudes of care-worn, worldly men 'found comfort in the prospect of eventual 'repose prepared for them through the self-sacrificing merits of the World-honoured 'One, in the jewelled realm of happiness, the 'immortal Nirvana: and many of them, 'eager for a foretaste of that rest, embraced 'a monastic life, leaving the cares of family 'and state behind them, and assuming the 'ascetic's yellow robe, the 'flag of victory 'of the saints.' The dread prospect of 'ever-circling existence was if then not 'abolished, at least very materially mitigated; the weary soul could look forward to 'the annihilation of passion, disappointment, 'desire and sin, in its reabsorption into the 'Divine essence from whence it originally 'came. For those who sought the true way 'and were guided by the Wheel of the Law, 'the genuine teaching of their Divine 'forerunner, there remained a Paradise of 'absolute rest and peace; while for the disobedient, the unholy, the impure, those 'who worked ill to their neighbours and 'were destitute of that love which is the 'fulfilling of the law, who neglected their 'social duties and religious rites, there was 'no prospect but a weary succession of 'never-ending existences, in all forms of life 'and all stages of terrestrial and infernal 'habitation, from mount Meru to the Crystal 'Walls of the Chakkráwan. The promises 'which Taoism had made and not kept, were 'fulfilled by the foreign religion; and ever 'since the introduction of Buddhism into 'China the former has become to a 'large extent merged and mingled in the 'latter. To say that either system has 'gained by the association would be erroneous; for the degeneracy of Taoism 'has inspired a corresponding decadence in 'the Indian creed, in its lower and more 'popular developments. The two are 'inextricably confounded in the minds of 'the common people, who practise the rites 'of both religions with perfect impartiality 'as occasion may require; only the ethics 'of early Taoism, now practically lost to the 'populace at large, are well supplemented 'by the loftier morals of the Buddhistic 'code. Whether another foreign creed will 'ever succeed in supplanting the existing 'systems of belief in China, is a question 'which ages alone will solve. The prospect 'appears to us but a doubtful one; for it is 'difficult to convince a cultured Chinaman 'that the Western faith contains any 'beauties or any truths that are not to be 'found in the creeds which have already 'served his countrymen for centuries—we 'might almost say, for millenniums. It is 'characteristic of Europeans to look forward—of Easterns to look back; but while 'it is natural for us to think the former is 'the better course in this our progressive 'nineteenth century existence, there are 'still stores of wisdom and knowledge to be 'found in 'the infinite azure of the past.'"

Such is the sum and substance of Mr. Balfour's *excursus*. We have devoted much time and space to its notice partly on account of the curious and interesting informa-

tion it affords respecting two old-world systems of morality and religion and partly because it supplies a fair analysis of the "Divine Classic" which the writer has evidently most ably and carefully translated.

Unfortunately the Chinese language is a sealed book to us. Had it not been so, we should have been in a better position to point out the sterling merits of Mr. Balfour's work. As it is, we can only give such general survey of the volume as will enable our readers to form some idea of its contents.

It seems to be in accordance with the "eternal fitness of things" that every sage or prophet should have a successor on whom his mantle might descend. Elijah had Elisha, Confucius Mencius and Lao Tze Chuang Tze, to continue and perfect the work commenced by them. Chuang Tze is the author of the works translated by Mr. Balfour. By education a Confucianist, he is described as a "brilliant writer, metaphysician, satirist, fabulist and paradoxist." His intellect appears to have been of a peculiarly combative order, leading him to attack existing systems and accepted modes of thought for the mere sake of contradiction. His writings, from beginning to end, abound in allegories, fables, legends, metaphors and similes of the wildest, weirdest and strangest order, though a rich, poetic vein is traceable here and there in many places. Mr. Balfour says there are not wanting scholars who believe, or profess to believe, that Chuang Tze intended the whole of this Classic as a sort of elaborate joke. The table of its contents stands as follows:—

Vol. I.—1. Wanderings at ease; 2. On the uniformity of all things; 3. Rules respecting the nourishment of life.

Vol. II.—4. The world of humanity; 5. On the manifestation of inward virtue; 6. The universal teacher; 7. On the duty of Emperors and Princes.

Vol. III.—8. Double thumbs; 9. Horses hoofs; 10. The rifling of portfolios; 11. Leniency towards faults; 12. Heaven and earth; 13. The way of heaven; 14. The revolution of heaven.

Vol. IV.—15. Bigoted ideas; 16. The renovation of one's nature; 17. Autumn waters; 18. Perfect happiness; 19th. The interpretation of life; 20. Mountain trees; 21. T'ien Tze-fang; 22. Wisdom's trip to the north.

Vol. V.—23. K'eng-sang-Ts'u; 24. Hsü Wu-Kuei; 25. Toeh Yang; 26. On matters external to one's self.

Vol. VI.—27. On Metaphors; 28. The Philosopher Lieh; 29. The Empire. 30. Abdication of Princes; 31. Ché the robber; 32. The love of swords; 33. The old fisherman,

It is a difficult matter to formulate the exact creed of Chuang Tze contained in the above-named volumes and chapters. As far as it is possible to judge, he believed in (1) the absolute existence of the universe from its beginning; (2) The non-eternity of matter; (3) A First Great Cause; (4) The Metempsychosis. This last dogma he illustrates by the following rather far-fetched simile:—"Fuel which is on fire will soon be consumed; but the fire itself, if transmitted, will burn on inexhaustibly." The fuel stands for the human body, the fire for the immortal soul; which, when by its constant action it has worn out one corporeal encasement, will still continue to exist in any other that may be provided for it.

The science of comparative theology to which Mr. Balfour's work is a valuable contribution and one which will be gratefully received by many earnest students—not only

possesses especial fascinations but is also an invaluable aid towards liberating the human mind from the narrow dominions of pride and prejudice, bigotry and intolerance. It teaches, according to Professor Max Muller, the same lesson which St. Augustine most unwillingly learnt, that there is no religion which does not contain some grains of truth. It teaches us more; it enables us to see in the history of the ancient religions, more clearly than anywhere else, the *Divine education of the human race*.

There are those who say that the religious instinct is inherent in man. This "instinct" has been defined as "a faculty of apprehending the Infinite, not only in religion, but in all things; a power independent of sense and reason, a power in a certain sense contradicted by sense and reason, but yet a very real power, which has held its own from the beginning of the world, neither sense nor reason being able to overcome it, while it alone is able to overcome both reason and sense." May not also the various religions of the world, both ancient and modern, orthodox and unorthodox, be regarded as so many feeble, though praiseworthy strivings of the Finite to grasp the Infinite; of ignorance to attain the "unknown and unknowable"? May they not also be regarded as so many guesses at truth? If so, those parts or points which are common to all may hereafter prove to be very near approaches to the truth.

Furthermore, a careful study of works similar to the one before us fosters a catholic spirit of charity and liberality towards those who differ from us. And when, as one of our ablest scholars has said "we have once learnt to be charitable and reasonable in the interpretation of the sacred books of other religions, we shall more easily learn to be charitable and reasonable in the interpretation of our own. We shall no longer try to force a literal sense on words which, if interpreted literally, must lose their true and original purport, we shall no longer interpret the Law and the Prophets as if they had been written in the English of our century, but read them in a truly historical spirit, prepared for many difficulties, undismayed by any contradictions, which, so far from disproving the authenticity, become to the historian of ancient language and ancient thought the strongest confirmatory evidence of the age, the genuineness, and the real truth of ancient sacred books. Let us but treat our own sacred books with neither more nor less mercy than the sacred books of other nations, and they will soon regain the position and influence which they once possessed, but which the artificial and unhistorical theories of the last three centuries have well-nigh destroyed."

With these remarks we bring our review to a close. If hereafter, it should tend to awaken an interest in the minds of any readers in the science of comparative theology; and, more especially, should in any way assist in securing for Mr. Balfour's valuable work the high appreciation it deserves, any pains we have taken in its production will not have been in vain.

The following is the customs return for the year ended June 30th. 1881:—

Exports .....	yen 31,355,213,636
Imports .....	„ 32,843,499,802

Excess of imports .....	yen 1,493,286,166
Customs duties, &c.....	„ 2,624,119,024
Export of specie and bullion ..	8,736,578,500
Import of specie and bullion ..	1,466,957,143

## Reports.

### MEETING OF SILK MERCHANTS.

A MEETING of foreign residents interested in the silk trade of Japan was held at the Club Germania on Tuesday evening (20th) at 9 o'clock, and was very numerous and influentially attended, between sixty and seventy gentlemen being present. The chair was occupied by Mr. Wilkin, who opened the discussion by alluding to the newly-organised silk kwaisha, explaining that it was suddenly established without any consultation with foreign buyers, and that, in his experience of Japan trade, he did not consider such implicit confidence could be placed in the integrity of the silk dealers as to warrant purchases being made under the rules of the guild.

One of the silk buyers explained to the meeting the result of his experience in the purchase and inspection of a few bales of silk on the previous day. He said that the light for inspection was bad; the accommodation insufficient; the scales and weights were faulty; the baskets in which the silk was weighed were marked at a lower weight than they really possessed; and that in consequence the result of his purchase was unsatisfactory and showed a deficiency of about two per cent. in weight when reweighed in his own godown.

Following the remarks of the two speakers, a resolution was proposed by Mr. Kingdon, and seconded by Mr. de Bavier, as follows:—

"That this meeting resolves it is not safe to purchase silk at the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho under the present rules and conditions imposed by that association."

This resolution was thoroughly discussed in all its bearings, and carried unanimously by the meeting. Various opinions were subsequently ventilated with regard to the manner in which Japanese silk dealers and the trade generally should be informed of the resolutions of the meeting, the result being that a unanimous resolution proposed by Mr. Kingdon and seconded by Mr. de Bavier was come to, as follows:—

"That the Kwaisha be informed by letter from the chairman of this meeting of the resolution passed; at the same time expressing disappointment and astonishment at the sudden formation of this Kwaisha; to ask the reason of its formation, and to assure the native silk traders that if they have any cause for complaint of the way in which silk business has hitherto been conducted in Yokohama, foreign merchants are quite willing and anxious to meet their views."

This brought the meeting virtually to a close; but before its separation Mr. Moberly made a very pertinent remark that in the discussion with regard to silk purchasing the meeting had apparently not ventilated one very important detail, which was, in his opinion, the unwillingness of foreign bankers to allow foreign merchants any overdraft of account for the purchase of silk not in the custody of the foreign buyer.

### CRICKET.

"The Eleven v. Twenty-two"—on the 17th. instant did not furnish as much amusement as might have been expected and finally finished with a draw, the Eleven being nearly 70 runs ahead of their opponents. Messrs. Veitch, Sutter, and Duff



distinguished themselves in batting, the last named getting 36 runs to his own bat, and we must not forget to mention the excellent style and judgment shown in the wicket keeping. As to the fielding of the Twenty-two, we can only repeat what we have often said before that it would generally pay better if six or seven were taken out of the field and allowed to look on. In many instances there were as many as three or four fielders in the way of the ball, but none of them could make up their minds who ought to stop it; consequently many extra runs were added to the score. Mr. Read made an excellent catch at cover point, and the innings closed with a total of 122 runs, Mr. Mollison carrying his bat for 12.

We cannot say much for the batting of Twenty-two. Five wickets fell in an equal number of overs for *one* run. The first wicket was a great disappointment as great things were expected from this *debutant*. Messrs. Milne and Hamilton contributed 13 each to the score, and "Extra," 10 (this does not speak well for the bowling and longstopping of the Eleven) and shortly after 6 p.m. the stumps were drawn with a total of 56 and four wickets yet to fall.

There is plenty of room for improvement on both sides and the Eleven must stick steadily to their practice if they wish to hold their own against the expected naval visitors:—

#### "THE ELEVEN."

	Total runs.
Trevethick, run out ... ..	8
Abbott, bowled Davies ... ..	0
Veitch, c. Loxton, b. Davies ... ..	13
Dr. Wheeler, c. Mulhuish, b. Stephens ... ..	2
Moberly, b. Strange ... ..	10
Dodds, c. and b. Davies ... ..	1
Sutter, b. Strange ... ..	16
Duff, b. do. ... ..	36
Durant, c. Read, b. Strange ... ..	12
Mollison, not out ... ..	12
J. H. Thompson ... ..	0
Byes ... ..	5
Leg Byes ... ..	4
Wides... ..	3
	<hr/> 122

#### BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	Balls.	Runs.	Maiden overs.	Wides.	Wickets.
Davies -	115	32	8	0	3
Stephens -	50	23	1	1	1
Hearne -	45	14	1	0	0
Strange -	89	41	4	0	5

#### "THE TWENTY TWO."

Waggott, stumped Duff, b. Wheeler ... ..	0
Hodges, c. Wheeler, b. Abbott ... ..	0
Strange, b. Wheeler ... ..	0
Davies, b. Abbott ... ..	0
Barlow, b. Wheeler... ..	0
Milne, b. Abbott ... ..	13
Stephens, c. Durant, b. Wheeler ... ..	0
Hearne, run out ... ..	2
Mulhuish, b. Wheeler ... ..	0
Litchfield, b. Abbott ... ..	1
Read, b. Abbott ... ..	5
C. D. Moss, c. Veitch, b. Abbott ... ..	1
Boag, b. Abbott ... ..	6
Hamilton, not out ... ..	13
F. A. Cope, c. and b. Abbott... ..	2
Murray, b. Abbott ... ..	1
Richmond, stumped Duff, b. Sutter ... ..	0
Vivanti, not out ... ..	2
E. J. Moss, run out... ..	0
Capt. Brinkley	
J. L. Thompson } did not bat ... ..	—
Loxton	
Byes ... ..	4
Leg Byes ... ..	1
Wides ... ..	5
	<hr/> 56

#### BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	Balls.	Runs.	Maiden overs.	Wides.	Wickets.
Wheeler-	80	22	5	1	5
Abbott -	90	21	9	4	9
Sutter -	15	3	1	0	1

#### WRECK OF THE "WELLINGTON."

THE *Wellington*, British barque, official number 78,360, now lying in pieces a few miles from the entrance to the bay, was built in the year 1850, at Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A., and was a craft of 606 tons register. She was last surveyed in 1876, and a grant of five years allowed, since when she changed owners, being purchased by Mr. Donald McKenzie, of Auckland, New Zealand.

The sight of a total wreck, lying broken in pieces on jagged rocks, or smashed to atoms on a sandy beach by sheer force of the waves, brings to remembrance the dangers to which mariners of all classes are subject. But it requires the aid of a vivid imagination to realize the anxiety of all on board a ship doomed to certain destruction as they watch her drifting upon an iron-bound coast and are compelled to stand by and await their doom without being able to avert it.

Some conception of the feelings of the crew of the *Wellington* may be gathered from the following account given by one of the men. A little before daybreak on the morning of the 15th. as the vessel was scudding along at racing speed before a furious gale blowing beam on, the mate observed a high cliff loom up through the gloom and exclaimed "Good God, see where we are!" Although the brief glimpse of land sent a thrill of excitement through the crew, there was no confusion. Every man felt as though the next hour would be his last, but obeyed the commands of Captain Dick with alacrity. Orders were given to get the anchors in readiness to let go at a moment's notice. Every effort was made to keep the vessel to the wind, but the topsail was carried away, and she continued to drift towards the land. A man was sent aloft to take in the sail that had been blown to ribbons and was flapping about in the wind, an operation which was successfully performed. "Let go the anchors!" rang out above the howling of the winds and roaring of the waves, and in a moment the cables were running out at a terrific pace; then came a sudden shock, and the next instant the cables were dragged out of the ship, and the vessel rushed on to certain destruction as fast as before. "Get the boats ready!" was an order obeyed as promptly as the command to let go the anchors, and the men then stood and watched the breakers right ahead, wondering how many minutes they had to live, when to their astonishment the vessel ran through a small opening through the gloomy rocks over which the waves were dashing their spray twenty or more feet high, and a ray of hope unexpectedly burst upon the crew. About three cable's length from the shore the vessel struck and began to bump heavily. "Launch the life-boat," commanded Captain Dick, and the boat was soon in the water, only to be smashed into matchwood almost as soon as she touched it. An immense wave then broke over the fore part of the vessel, carrying away a large boat off the fore-castle, and another sea smashed the jolly boat as it lay on the main hatch. Captain Dick exhorted the men to remain cool and take such measures for their own safety as circumstances permitted, and to look out for the

masts falling. The exhortation was scarcely concluded when, with a terrific crash, the vessel's back broke. The foremast then fell over to port and was soon followed by the main mast. As the after part of the vessel separated from the fore part, the mizen mast slowly veered over towards the land. All this time the sea was dashing over the vessel with such force as to give the men considerable trouble to prevent being washed into the sea; and the roar of the winds and waters was almost deafening. Captain Dick called the men together and made inquiries as to how many could swim. Only three, out of eleven! "Then boys" exclaimed the master, "hold on until I see a favourable opportunity, and when I tell you to 'let go,' let one of the swimmers jump into the water. The natives are on the alert on shore and will assist you." A few moments of anxious suspense passed and then the captain was heard to cry out "go!" Immediately the boatswain consigned himself to the surging waters. The Japanese on shore saw the man leap, for the dawn was breaking, and rushing into the water as far as prudence permitted, extended long bamboos towards the swimmer, who was being tossed about most unmercifully by the sea. He clutched the bamboo only to have it torn from his grasp almost immediately, and for an instant his fate was uncertain. Again the friendly natives extended the bamboo and this time the man got a good hold of it and was dragged ashore in an exhausted condition. "Thank God, one man, at least, is saved," exclaimed Captain Dick. An A.B. was the next to venture and got ashore without difficulty. A man who could not swim and had taken the precaution to fasten a life-buoy about his person, next assayed to venture. The buoy kept him above water but impeded his movements, causing him to drift among the wreckage where he got badly wounded about the head, and was dragged ashore more dead than alive. The captain then suggested to the remaining men that as the mizen-mast was lying towards the shore, they might climb along it and be that much nearer the land. This suggestion was acted upon, and the men all got safe on shore, though one or two were sadly bruised. Captain Dick seeing all hands were saved plunged into the surf, and being a strong swimmer succeeded in making land without much difficulty.

A Japanese official then came and conducted the shipwrecked mariners to a temple close by, and a kind-hearted old priest, little acquainted with a sailor's capacity for swallowing, brought each a small cup of hot water, which was relished by the almost famished men as much as a glass of grog would have been under more favourable circumstances.

The remains of the wreck of the *Wellington* and her cargo put up at auction to-day by Mr. Cope,—the wreckage first. A speculative individual opened the bidding by the munificent offer of \$10.00. Some one else thought he could afford \$20.00, and so the bidding went on till \$300.00 was reached; then came a lull. But the eloquence of the auctioneer had its effect, and again the bidding was started and slowly ascended to \$650.00 when the excitement of the last few minutes died away, but only temporarily. The auctioneer received a "nod," which he instantly valued at twenty dollars, and again speculation became spirited for a brief time. "Going at \$800.00! First, second, —\$810.00," and so it went on until the sum

of \$855.00 was reached, when the eloquence of the auctioneer suddenly lost its persuasive power, and the *debris* was knocked down to Messrs. Iwasaki and Nodaiyah, iron merchants of Yokohama. The sale of the coal was afterwards started on a bid of \$25.00 and knocked down for \$630.00, Japanese again being the purchasers.

## Correspondence.

### TRADE MARKS.

To the editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

DEAR SIR:—In your review of the judgment in the cause of *Raspe vs. Copeland*, in the *Gazette* of the 10th you base your objections to its conclusions on the alleged fact, that "the defendant," to use your own words, "escaped with nominal damages and costs, the consequence of an offence of a serious character, and apparently upon the ground, which is regarded as utterly untenable, that he, a brewer, acted carelessly and not maliciously in complying with the request of certain Japanese to place the labels of the Flensburg Brewery upon bottles containing beer belonging to the defendant."

I regret to say that an examination of the evidence and judgment in the case as published in your own columns can not fail to convict you of great carelessness in permitting to be published so strange a version of the decision of the court.

In your report of the proceedings on the 30th. of August you say,—"His Honour said 'there could be no doubt that it was intended 'to defraud the public in this case.' This you corrected on the 1st. inst. by making the judge say 'whatever the intent, the effect was to defraud the public.' The judgment, published on the 2nd., reads upon this particular point, as follows. 'I do not think, however, it is necessary to establish such fraudulent intent by evidence. Formerly, when courts of law and equity were distinct tribunals, in an action for the violation of a trade mark brought in a court of law, it was held necessary that such proof should be made, but as this court possesses both law and equity powers, I am of the opinion that the evidence is fully sufficient in this case to warrant me in granting the prayer of the petition so far as to enjoin the defendant from any further use of the trade mark in question.'"

Here is a clear, distinct announcement by the court that the *proof of fraudulent intent* was not necessary in this case but that the complainant was entitled to his remedy without such proof. It accordingly follows that the defendant did not escape with nominal damages "on the ground that he acted carelessly and not maliciously."

"As to the damages," says the judgment, "in this particular case, the evidence discloses none." The issue of the false labels seems "to have been very limited. A rule has been obtained in such cases where no specific damage is proven, to award, as damages, the profits on all sales fraudulently made by the defendant; but in this case this profit, which must have been very small, has not been proved."

No specific damages then having been proved, and no evidence even offered, as to the amount of profit realized on the fraudulent sales, it appears to me that your conclusion is incon-

trovertible, that "it is not clear what other decision could have been arrived at," than the one given by the court: and it is equally clear that nominal damages were given, because no damage of any kind was proven and not because the defendant had no malicious intent.

It may be true, as you say, that "Mr. Raspe has done a public service in bringing this action," but it is perhaps well to bear in mind that if the defendant had not manfully come forward and admitted the wrong and offered every possible redress, the good accomplished by Mr. Raspe, either to the public or himself, would have hardly been visible to the naked eye, for, as you properly remark, "the plaintiff's case was weak," indeed, and without the assistance of the defendant's admissions judgment in his favour would have been impossible.

Respectfully yours,

JUSTICE.

[We readily admit all that our correspondent alleges, except his conclusion "that an examination of the evidence and judgment in this case as published in your own columns, cannot fail to convict you of great carelessness in permitting to be published so strange a version of the decision of the court," upon which point we join issue. The quotations from the evidence and the judgment are correctly given, but an important sentence in the latter, upon which we mainly relied, has been omitted. Referring to the seeming impossibility of the use by a brewer of a trade mark belonging to a foreign brewer, "without the intent to injure the sale of said beer, by the substitution of other beer in its stead," the judge added:—"But in this case I am led to believe, from the evidence, that, so far as the defendant is concerned, the proceeding was a careless and not a malicious one, into which he allowed himself to be drawn by the solicitations of some Japanese customers." This paragraph of the judgment seems to the public, and we think properly so, to override the general principles of law, which are no doubt lucidly and correctly laid down; and the difficulty all experience is in reconciling the act of a brewer, well versed in his trade, in "carelessly" affixing what he must have known to be trade mark labels to bottles containing beer of another character with the defendant's proceedings in this case.—Ed. J.G.]

### THE DANGERS OF TRAVELLING BY NATIVE STEAMBOATS.

DEAR SIR:—In your issue of the 29th. ultimo, your correspondent "W" draws attention to the insufficiency of life-saving apparatus in some of the Mitsui Bishi steamers, thereby endangering the safety of both foreign and native passengers travelling by them. With your permission I would draw attention to a danger equally as great if not still greater, namely the risk of boiler explosions consequent on the ignorance and carelessness of the native engineers. From this danger the Mitsui Bishi Company's steamers ought to be, and no doubt are, free, having skillful and experienced officers in their employ. But not so the numerous small craft which ply up and down the coast, rivers and canals. In spite of repeated warnings, and in spite of the numerous accidents which have occurred, accompanied with great loss of life, to the Lake Biwa and Osaka boats, no rules or regulations have, so far as I am aware, been framed, to guarantee that these and others will be under the control of qualified men. That the danger of allowing ignorant coolies (for the majority of the so-called native engineers are little better), to have charge of steam engines cannot be too much exaggerated, the following incident will show. Some time ago, on a pleasure trip,

I went up from O'hashi in Tokio by canal to Gotoku, on one of the small paddle steamers, and returned on another boat, a twin screw. Shortly after we left Gotoku on the return journey, we were followed by a paddle steamer and our engineer, who also acted as fireman, immediately began to fire up in order to keep a-head, and in this he was successful, until the engines came to a stop. I looked in to see what was wrong, and found the boiler front and chimney enveloped in flames. The engineer lifted the smoke-box door, and stood back until the flames subsided a little, he then got an iron rake or *clat*, and proceeded to rake out the boiler tubes, fetching out of each a quantity of half burnt coal. Whilst he was doing this I had a look at the steam gauge which registered 60 lbs, I also looked at the water gauge but could see no water. I called to the engineer but as he paid no attention I spoke to the captain who laughed and replied that it was all right. "Only the pipes on fire" "But," I said, "there is no water in the glass." The only answer he made to this was that he would pump in water directly, and walked off. I went back to see what the engineer was doing and on looking at the safety valve, which was one of the ordinary lever and weight construction, found that the weight had been pushed to the very end of the lever, but apparently this had been deemed insufficient, for an extra weight was hanging to the end of it by a string: this even had not the desired effect, for the lever was firmly tied down by means of a stout line made fast to the steam pipes which led from either side of the dome to the engines, and to prevent the possibility of the lines parting, and to make certain sure, a wooden wedge was driven in above the lever to keep it from rising. The safety valve double weighted, tied down and wedged down. No water in the glass and the tubes on fire. What more certain devices to insure the bursting of a boiler could possibly be contrived? Afterwards however, I noticed there was from  $\frac{1}{2}$ " to 1" of water to be seen in the glass, but it never exceeded 1". Any one whose curiosity or chance should take to that place would probably find, if they alighted on the same steamer, the safety valve in a similar condition. All on board except myself, the engineer included, seemed ignorant of the danger; and truly, in some cases ignorance is bliss, for I must confess I felt rather uncomfortable until I had put a good distance between myself and the boat, and although the route is extremely pretty and suitable for a pleasure trip, the observations I made on that day would nevertheless deter me from repeating the journey. It is a source of wonder to all who understand engines or take any interest in engineering that accidents in Japan are not much more frequent; indeed it would seem that the more ignorant the man the less likely the accident. On numerous occasions I have witnessed such recklessness in the driving and handling of steam engines, some of them of native make and doubtful quality, which rendered escape from explosions or accidents almost miraculous. I must ask you to excuse me intruding so much on your space and on the patience of your readers, but the inevitable loss of life from such accidents renders it a matter of necessity that some restraint should be put on natives being entrusted with engines who, with few exceptions, are wholly ignorant of engineering.

I am &c.,

SAFETY VALVE.

Tokio, September 3rd, 1881.

## SWEDENBORG'S WORKS.

To the editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

DEAR SIR:—Your statement that the University of Tokio, has recently applied to the Swedenborg Society for copies of Swedenborg's works is an erroneous one.

The facts are these. The Swedenborg Society was desirous to present to some public library in Japan, a set of that author's works, theological, scientific and philosophical, and learning on good authority, that the most suitable institution of the kind was the library of the University of Tokio, application was made to the ministry of education for permission to present the volumes, which was at once granted.

In taking this course the Tokio authorities have ample precedent in the acceptance of similar donations by the English Universities, by the great free libraries of our large towns, and by various learned societies on the continent.

A better knowledge of Swedenborg's ideas would have prevented you from classing him, by inference at least, with modern "spiritualists" and the seekers of the "elixir of life." The time has gone by when such an estimate could be made by any one possessing claims to an intelligent knowledge of his works. Neither you nor I have probably time or inclination to enter into any polemic on a subject which is not very suitable to your valuable, but eminently commercial, journal; but I would recommend all who are interested, to consult the works in question at the institutions named in your paragraph on the subject, that is, when they arrive, for their despatch from England is not yet advised.

Yours faithfully,

GEO. SALE.

Yokohama, 12th. Sept. 1881.

[We may explain, for the satisfaction of our correspondent, that by the paragraph he refers to we meant nothing derogatory to the code of ethics propounded by Swedenborg. What we meant to convey was, that the writings of that author were considerably beyond the depth of students of the Tokio university; and that in attempting to fathom the system of philosophy therein contained they were assaying a task that would be on a par with a search after the "philosopher's stone," or the manufacture of the "elixir of life." We entertain a spirit of the broadest liberality towards all creeds in religion, and may therefore be safely acquitted of any intention to wound the feelings of either Swedenborgians, or of any others from whom we may differ. Ed. J. G.]

## ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS FROM JAPANESE.

To the editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

DEAR SIR:—In reference to some recent strictures upon English translations from the Japanese, will you permit me to ask some of the higher scholars and students of the Japanese language, what is the accurate meaning of the Chinese word *tsukama* 握? The *Santo Giokuhon* (Chinese, Japanese, English Dictionary, published in Tokio in 1877), gives the English rendering "to grasp with the paw"; and I understand the Chinese character to mean "to clutch or seize with the paw or claw," as a beast or bird of prey would do.

Yours faithfully,

QUERIST.

September 13th.

## OUTSIDE SETTLEMENT LIMITS.

To the editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

DEAR SIR:—Counting myself among those who are "lovers of good breakfast bacon," (with or without eggs) I am delighted to learn that some gentleman who is well acquainted with the best manner of saving bacon (for other people, as well as his own) is about to start a bacon curing establishment, and I hope it will prosper; but it occurs to me that there is another matter involved in the information you convey in the paragraph which appeared in last night's issue of the *Gazette*, which calls for attention, especially on the part of Bluff owners.

It is stated, that the gentleman of bacon curing proclivities, is about to apply, or has applied, for a piece of ground outside the limits of the Bluff settlement, in the same way as has been granted to several dairies, so as not to be a nuisance to the residents of the settlements. This is all very well, and is very considerate on the part of the Piggery and Dairy proprietors; but is that the real reason they are so anxious to get land outside settlement limits? Do they reap any advantages by this method of proceeding?

It appears to me that they get their land without having to buy it at auction, and to pay a high price for it like other people, after selecting their own site, instead of having to take what is offered. Is this fair to those who have had to buy their land under the regulations, and is it not likely to depreciate the value of Bluff property if people under favour, are permitted to obtain land in this manner? It appears to me to be a distinct breach of faith on the part of the government, and if Bluff owners allow it to go on without a strong protest, they deserve to see their property melt away to nothing.

I am, dear sir,

Yours respectfully,

YAMA NUSHI.

Yokohama, 13th. September, 1881.

To the editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

SIR:—Referring to the alleged intention on the part of some person unknown at present, to make application for the grant of a piece of ground outside the limits of the Bluff settlement for the purpose of embarking in a bacon speculation, and the letter of "Yama Nushi" on the subject of extra-settlement grants of land generally, and its bearing and relation to the property of those who, trusting in the inviolability of the land regulations, have become owners of land within the settlements.

I quite agree with the remarks of "Yama Nushi," and am decidedly of opinion that action should be promptly taken by the Bluff owners to prevent the unjust depreciation of their property, if it is really in danger; but upon this point I should like more information, "Yama Nushi" speaks of grants to "several" dairies, but I am not aware of more than one foreign dairy existing outside the settlements. If there are others in course of formation for which grants have been made, I am at present ignorant of them. There is a Japanese dairy in the middle of the Bluff settlement, surrounded by foreign houses, and if grants of land outside the limits of the settlements are made to foreigners, on the score of health, and for sanitary reasons, the authorities ought, in order to be consistent, to compel the removal

of the Japanese dairy from its immediate contiguity to the houses of Bluff residents.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

BLUFF.

Yokohama, September 15th, 1881.

## TRANSLATION FROM JAPANESE.

To the editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

DEAR SIR:—Although I have no right to class myself, or be classed among "the higher scholars and students of the Japanese language," I think I can with reasonable confidence assure "Querist" that he can make no great mistake in accepting the definition of 握 given by Mr. SANTO in his *Giokuhon*, "to grasp with the paw."

Dr. S. W. Williams, at page 492 of his *Syllabic Dictionary*, defines the character thus: "To seize with the claws as a cat or eagle does with its prey." Dr. Morrison defines it in his *Dictionary* (vol. I, page 571) as "To take hold of; to grasp with the paw or claw, as a dog or bird."

Both these eminent Lexicographers follow closely on the lines of *Kang-Hi*, who gives as equivalents, 拏 "to seize from above," 撲取 "to pounce upon and seize," &c. A gloss on an illustrative quotation from the forty-first chapter of the 禮記 says, 以脚取之謂之握, that is "to seize with the feet [or legs], is called 握 *Kaku*."

I am, dear sir,

Your faithfully,

X:

Yokohama, 14th. Sept., 1881.

## A NATURALIZATION LAW FOR JAPAN.

To the editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

SIR:—From ten to twelve years since the diplomatic world of Europe and America, and all who took an interest in international affairs, were much occupied in the consideration and discussion of questions of nationality and naturalization. The discussion was raised by the United States of America, in defence of persons who, according to American law, but not to the laws of the countries in which they were born, were deemed American citizens. On the side of the United States the subject was pressed with uncommon rigour and persistency by the then secretary of state, the late Mr. Seward—"a man of remarkable power of mind" as he was described by Earl Russell—and the result has been that the enactments and decrees, many of which had been hardly touched for ages, were either totally abrogated, or modified in a sense consonant with the wishes of the American people.

Early in their history the congress of the United States had declared it the inalienable right of man to expatriate himself when or where he pleased, or could do so; while the law of England asserted, as an inflexible rule, that no British subject can put off his natural allegiance without the consent of the legislature of Great Britain. On this position was based the claim of the latter country at the beginning of the present century to impress seamen from American vessels to serve in the royal navy, which ultimately led to war between the two countries. This war in no way settled the question of the right of expatriation, which was subsequently brought up frequently, until

finally, consequent upon the outbreak of Fenianism in Ireland in the years 1865-8, fomented and led chiefly by natives of Ireland naturalized in America, it assumed great and pressing importance. About the same time similar questions were raised with the German states and France by the return of subjects of those countries who had been naturalized in America, and the demand of the authorities that they should perform compulsory military service. The discussions with these two countries were easily settled; but it was not until 1870 that, by the Naturalization Act of that year, Great Britain receded from the position which she had taken in the matter of expatriation. In this diplomatic victory Mr. Seward was much assisted by the most eminent English public writers of the day, as much as by the intrinsic justice of his case, and his persistent and logical mode of pressing it.

Broadly speaking, the right of every man to expatriate himself is now acknowledged by every civilized power; but in each state there are certain restrictions, dictated by a desire to avoid collision with other nations on the delicate subject of sovereignty. So far the individual.

In the volume of the diplomatic correspondence of the United States for 1877, we find the American minister in Japan reporting to the department of state a conversation with the Japanese vice-minister for foreign affairs, the late Mr. Sameshima, on the subject of naturalization. Mr. Bingham was asked to state his opinion of the right of the Japanese government to grant naturalization to aliens residing, or desirous of taking up their abode, in Japan. He replied that, according to his view, Japan possessed such power, inasmuch as all the leading nations of Europe had claimed it, as well as the United States; and that independent nations had equal rights within their respective territories. In reply to a further enquiry how the extra-territorial clause in the treaties with foreign powers affected this right of Japan to naturalize foreigners, Mr. Bingham said, that in his opinion "that treaty provision did not in any wise affect the question, as the only intent thereof was to exempt the citizen or subject of the treaty-power from trial, in civil and criminal cases in Japan, before Japanese tribunals, to subject him to trial within this empire in all complaints before the judicial tribunals of the country to which he owes his present allegiance." Hence, in the opinion of Mr. Bingham—and we can desire no better one in a question of this description—Japan, in common with all other independent nations, has the right to promulgate a naturalization law, and under it to naturalize any foreigner desiring to expatriate himself. No such law has, however, yet been issued, and I shall now proceed to state what seem to me very strong reasons why Japan should exercise her right of naturalization freely.

There are two reasons why the Japanese government should introduce the practice of naturalizing foreigners by law. The first is that Japan would thereby take an important step towards the abolition of the system of extra-territoriality; the second is the important advantages which would result to the land, more especially under the present circumstances.

If Japan declared itself ready to open the whole country to foreigners, provided the extra-territorial clauses were expunged from the treaties, it seems certain that foreign powers would not at present consent to such a measure. But although it is not yet possible to remove the privileges granted to aliens,

there is nevertheless no reason why they should not be removed to a certain extent in individual cases, by accepting as Japanese subjects such foreigners as, believing the laws of the country sufficiently developed, desire to live under them. Of course, no one can say before-hand how many would take advantage of a naturalization law. But if in the course of some years a hundred persons availed themselves of the privilege granted by such a law, the treatment which they would receive from Japanese authorities and Japanese courts, in their capacity as Japanese subjects, would afford foreign powers a criterion as to the position of all foreigners, if completely under Japanese law. It is almost a law of nature that people will hesitate doing what they have no examples for; and it can hardly be expected that foreign residents would willingly forfeit the benefits which are theirs by treaty, without some assurance, more satisfactory than they have yet received, as to the manner in which power over them would be exercised by the officials of this country. Such an assurance would be afforded by the treatment of foreigners naturalized under a Japanese law.

The dislike of the native authorities to the introduction of foreign capital to develop the natural resources of the country is well known. This also could be met by naturalization. It is doubtful whether men of capital would themselves become Japanese subjects; but it is quite certain that they would invest their wealth more readily in the hands of a foreigner whose language, habits, and modes of transacting business they know, than with a Japanese of whom they are ignorant in all these respects. Men of much skill and special knowledge, in which the Japanese themselves are wanting, might be induced to cast in their lot with the country. When this subject was mooted three or four years ago, many of the Japanese journals raised a loud outcry against it. It was stated that "the fair-haired and blue-eyed ones," would come to Japan, become naturalized, make much wealth (the usual cry!) and then depart carrying their gains with them, and leaving the country so much the poorer. It is hardly necessary to do more than mention this objection. Natives of Europe are scattered all over the globe as naturalized subjects of every country, and we do not remember to have seen them objected to on this ground before. Many of the most important industries of England are due to foreign exiles who were granted homes from prosecution or injustice in their own countries; and taking into consideration the exceptional circumstances in Japan, the presence of skilled and educated foreigners amongst them, would be of tenfold advantage to the Japanese.

Whether foreigners should be recommended to take such a course is a wholly different question, but as to the benefit to the Japanese themselves, and from this point of view alone have I written at present, this seems obvious. There are so many examples for laws of this description that it is unnecessary now to indicate any in particular. Every government can at any time refuse to permit the naturalization of an individual, who, for reasons of its own, it does not desire to have as a subject. Japan and China are, we believe, the only countries of importance in the world without some provision on the subject of naturalization.

I am, &c.,

CIVIS.

#### A DESERVING CASE.

To the editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

SIR:—I shall be much obliged if you will allow me to make an appeal in your columns on behalf of some of the children from the Bonin islands, of whom you published an account last August. The condition of these half European descendants of the first settlers is likely to be one of increasing ignorance and retrogression. We have for some years past endeavoured to do what we could in the way of educating any of the children of the islanders that could be persuaded to come to Japan. Three out of the seven who came back in the *Alert* had already received instruction either here or in Kobe for longer or shorter periods. When the *Alert* was about to start on its last voyage to the Bonin islands, I promised Mr. Van Buskirk—who has taken the greatest interest in the matter—to take two or three children if they could be brought here. Of the seven who actually came, Mr. Foss of Kobe has taken charge of two. For three more I hope to be able to provide. But for the remaining two I am quite without the means of maintenance. These two are Benjamin Savory the son of an American and Moses Webb, the son of an Englishman; both aged about 14, and quiet tractable lads. I wish to mention that Dr. Faulds has kindly consented to give them lodgings and to teach them, together with the other pupils in his hospital, medicine and surgery. Mr. Thompson at the dispensary, desiring that the boys should not lose such an opportunity, has undertaken to take care of them and instruct them farther in English learning as well as in the dispensing of medicine &c., if the requisite funds for their support can be found. I wish therefore to appeal to the well known generosity of the foreign residents on their behalf.

I shall be happy to supply any further information, and to receive any contributions towards the maintenance of these two boys. Whatever sums I may receive will be duly acknowledged in the columns of the *Gazette*.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. C. SHAW.

Tokio, September 15th, 1881.

#### Occasional Notes.

We have received the current number of that useful and interesting little magazine *The Chrysanthemum*, which we have much pleasure in recommending to the notice of our readers. A Vocabulary of Aino words is commenced by Mr. W. Denning which will no doubt be cordially welcomed by all who are engaged in the study of philology. Mr. M. C. Harris contributes some Japanese proverbs a few of which are little more than paraphrases of some of our own familiar sayings, e.g. "*Fu-ja no mando yori hin-ja no itto*," the one taper offered by the poor man is more than ten thousand presented by the rich. This supplies a very complete parallel to Luke 21 v. 1, "And he looked up, and saw the rich men, &c." Again, "*Uyetaru toki ni aji naki mono nashi*," when one is hungry nothing is insipid; which will compare with "Hunger is the best sauce." Here is something that will supply food for reflection to those who believe in the Darwinian theory:—"Saru wa nin gen ni sam-bon ke ga taranai, a monkey only lacks three hairs of a man. *Akuji san ri*," evil travels fast,



will compare with "Bad news travels fast." "*Chiu-shin ni kun ni tsukayedzu*," a loyal soldier cannot serve two masters, is the equivalent of "Ye cannot serve God and mammon." Mr. Waddell continues his valuable series of papers on "The Rendering into Japanese of some Theological and Psychological Terms," and Mr. Takahashi Goro furnishes another installment of his criticism of Mr. Waddell on Ki. The "padding" throughout the number is commendable, but does not call for any special notice. We can safely say that this issue of *The Chrysanthemum* at least reaches, if it does not exceed, the average.

*THE Akebono Shinbun* says:—Mr. Godai of the Kwansei Boyeki Shokwai, who has become so well known in connection with the Kaitakushi transaction that even children are familiar with his name, recently came to Tokio from the Hokkaido but avoided seeing his friends in the capital, and secretly left that city a few days ago for Osaka from whence after a short stay, he intends to proceed to Kinsu for the purpose of hiding himself from the public. However, when he arrived in Osaka, he is said to have been attacked by an unknown person with a drawn sword and so seriously wounded that it is uncertain whether he will recover from the injuries he received. It is also said that the would-be assassin has not been arrested though the authorities are on the alert after him. We do not vouch for the truth of the rumour, but simply give it for what it is worth.

*THE Mai Nichi Shinbun* announces that young people of Kochi-ken are constantly arriving at Kobe or Osaka by every steamer that trades between those two places and Kochi-ken, en route for Shidzuoka. The government are anxiously watching their movement, and the Osaka-fu has addressed a communication to Shidzuoka-ken.

*THE* same paper says:—We heard some time ago that the Tokio arsenal had been actively employed in making arms, &c. since the beginning of the year, so much so, that even on Sundays the establishment is not closed; but since a rumour has been current to the effect that the Chinese are moving in the Loo-chooan affair, the arsenal has taken things a little more easily so that we are induced to believe that war is not so imminent as it was recently reported to be.

*THE* same journal says that His Excellency Iwakura, Udaijin, will shortly return from Kioto.

A BASE ball match was played on the cricket ground yesterday afternoon (8th inst.) between the local club and the team from the U.S.S. *Alert*. The result was a victory for the strangers.

U.S.S. "ALERT."				YOKOHAMA B. B. CLUB.			
Names	Pos.	Runs.	Outs.	Names	Pos.	Runs.	Outs.
Strobel	.....2B.	1	4	Loxton	.....P.	1	4
Costello	.....1B.	4	1	Mansbridge	.....C.	3	2
Klink	.....S.S.	4	1	Van Buren	H.S.1B.	2	3
Snyder	.....3B.	2	3	Moss, C. D.	.....3B.	4	1
Hyland	.....P.	4	1	Thompson	.....2B.	2	3
Hollow	.....R.F.	2	1	Driscoll	.....S.S.	3	2
Gorman	.....C.F.	2	3	Hodges	.....C.F.	2	2
Taylor	.....C.	0	4	Schultz	.....R.F.	1	3
McCane	.....L.F.	1	3	Sargent	.....L.F.	0	1
		20	21			18	21

Score by innings. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Yokohama, B.B.C. 0 3 0 7 1 5 2 = 18 Runs.  
"Alert" ..... 3 1 2 0 6 5 3 = 20 "

*THE Mai Nichi Shinbun* says that Prince Arisugawa (the father of Sadaijin) has had an interview with their Majesties the Empress and Empress Dowager.

*THE Nichi Nichi Shinbun* has the following items:—Princess Katsura-no-Miya, residing in Kioto has been ill for some time; on the 4th. instant, the symptoms assumed a very dangerous turn.

A rumour is current to the effect that the cabinet is now discussing the abolition of the public works departments and dividing its business between the home department and that of husbandry and trade; for instance, lighthouses' construction and repairs, and two three other branches of business, to the former department, and all other business to the latter. But we do not know whether this is true or not.

*THE* heat of the last few days would have been unusually oppressive had the average percentage of humidity prevailed. Fortunately, however, the high temperature has been tempered by an unusually dry air. To-day, for instance, at 1 p.m. the dry bulb thermometer in proper shade recorded 91°; the wet bulb 78°, the difference showing that the air contained no more than 50 per cent. of humidity.

A TELEGRAM notifies that His Imperial Majesty the Mikado arrived at Hakodate at 4.50 p.m. on the 8th inst.

*THE Mai Nichi Shinbun* remark:—A meeting of the shareholders of the Japan Railway Company was held yesterday, and after a brief deliberation it dispersed. It is said the subject discussed was the departure of Mr. Yoshii, vice-minister of the public works department, for surveying ground along the proposed new lines. He leaves Tokio to-day.

*THE* government is said to have despatched secret spies to all Fu and Ken for a special purpose, and to have incurred the expenditure of 20,000 yen in the business. We cannot, however, vouch for the truth of the rumour.

On the 31st. of August last, the Japanese corvette *Kongo-kan* met a wrecked ship on her voyage from Otaru to Hakodate, and succeeded in saving 25 persons who were on board.

*THE* quantity of gushing nonsense written about Japan and her treaties with foreign powers, is incredible. The latest contribution to this sentimental rubbish is from the pen of Mr. Isaac T. Smith, who dates his epistle from Washington, U. S. A., June 1st, 1881, and of whom, although the name is somewhat familiar, we happily know nothing. This letter headed "Commercial Treaties" is too long and too worthless to be reproduced here, and two or three extracts will be more than sufficient. Referring to the financial difficulties of Japan Mr. Isaac T. Smith says:—

"It appears that by various treaties they have made that the English and other European manufacturers of goods are admitted into Japan at a rate of customs duty that barely covers the expenses of collection, leaving no revenue therefrom for the support of the government, and these goods so admitted are displacing their own home made fabrics by underselling them, thereby driving the manufacturers of such goods out of business: this has thrown whole communities of operatives out of employment causing great distress."

The finance minister stands corrected by Mr. Isaac T. Smith. The former states that

the customs duties for 1880 are estimated to produce yen 2,569,462; cost of collection yen 222,308; balance for support of government yen 2,347,154: not a very unsatisfactory result when the insignificance of the trade is considered. The principal imports, into Japan are raw materials of the commonest quality for the use of the poorest class of the people; and the influx of these commodities has given employment to thousands who were before idle, not merely in working up the raw material, but in producing something to pay for it. When foreigners founded the settlement of Yokohama the suburbs were waste swamps bare of inhabitants; now those suburbs extend to Kanagawa some three miles distant, and not far short of sixty thousand people live upon the employment given to them by the foreigner, whose presence is so objectionable to Mr. Isaac T. Smith.

The next quotation proves the care with which Mr. Isaac T. Smith verified his data before drawing conclusions. He says:—

"It appears that after Mr. Harris had completed his treaty in 1858, which took two years to accomplish, that an English envoy, Lord Elgin, visited Japan and executed a compact the same in form, but differing in respect to the import duty on merchandize. Mr. House says that Mr. Harris fixed the duty at twenty per cent. *ad valorem*. The English negotiation reduced it to five per cent. Mr. Harris at once warned the Japanese of the false step they were taking, but the document had been signed, and it was too late to repair the evil."

Quite wrong, Mr. Isaac T. Smith. If you follow Mr. House it is utterly impossible you should even approach the truth; and "mark now, how a plain tale shall put you down." The first treaty of commerce entered into by Japan was with the United States, signed at Yedo, July 29th, 1858; the second was with Holland, August 18th, 1858; the third was with Russia, August 7-19, 1858; and the fourth was with Great Britain, August 26th, 1858. To all these treaties trade regulations were annexed providing for an identical customs tariff of duties ranging from 5 to 35 per cent. The returns therefrom, as lately shown, were very trifling, and trade was much hampered by these high duties, which, eight years later, were reduced to an uniform basis of 5 per cent. *ad valorem*, by a convention signed by the representatives of Japan, Great Britain, France, United States and Holland. True, Mr. Griffis, author of "The Mikado's Empire," himself no doubt an American of pure descent for at least ten generations, endeavoured to get out of this awkward dilemma by delicately insinuating that the *chargé* of United States affairs in Japan was a Hollander by birth and training.

Here we must stop. Half a dozen additional writers endowed with the *ignorance crasse* of Messrs. Isaac T. Smith and Griffis, would create endless confusion by their reckless dissemination of misrepresentation. Their motto, suggested by their mistaken criticism, should be *Damnatio quod non intelligit*.

*THE Hochi Shinbun* has the following notes:—

His Imperial Majesty the Mikado is announced by a telegram to have arrived at Hiromaye at 6 p.m. on the 9th. inst. and to have left there at 1.30 p.m. on the following day.

The article in the July number of the *Edinburgh Review* entitled "Japan revolutionized" is a very poor piece of padding.

The writer does not seem to have any knowledge whatever of his subject except what he has derived from Miss Bird's and Sir Edward Reed's volumes. It is our desire to reprint here anything of importance or value that appears about Japan in the newspapers and magazines at home, but in the present instance the article is composed chiefly of cuttings from the volumes reviewed, connected by perfunctory and frequently incorrect remarks of the reviewer. Misled by Miss Bird, he says that no evidence is forthcoming to show that the revolution has in any way improved the condition of the Japanese labourer. General Van Buren shows very clearly, in his excellent Report on Labor in Japan, that a vast change has taken place in the position and prospects of the mural population during the past twelve years; that in fact the difference between the present and past condition of the labourer is that between servitude and freedom, between being a serf all but permanently attached to the land, and being himself the free possessor of the land. He has again been misled by Miss Bird to attribute extreme poverty and misery as the lot of the labourer. We have already dealt with Miss Bird's jaundiced views on this subject in reviewing her work. For once the writer in the *Edinburgh Review* is right when he says that there is something which has not yet been told if the Japanese peasant is anything but extremely well off, according to his own notions of comfort, when we know his industry and ingenuity, as well as the fertility of the soil, the comparatively light taxation, and the cheapness of food. What that something is, as we have already pointed out, Miss Bird describes through somewhat jaundiced eyes in the wild mountain districts of northern Japan, and not in the silk, tea and rice districts which are the true homes of the peasant.

The proof reading of the article, also, has been most defective. We find *Kaion* for *Kiishiu*, *Isagaru* for *Tsugaru*, *Sokio* for *Tokio*; Mr. Satow appears as Mr. Satoro; "an Aino hut in Yezo," becomes "an Aino not in Yezo." The writer's notion of the uses of the Japanese syllabaries are somewhat vague. The *hirakana* is used, he says, by women and the lower classes, and is the first learned by the children. The *katakana* is learned "later in life, if they require a more advanced knowledge of literature." A Japanese student is also, it seems, "expected to acquire a sufficient knowledge of Chinese to be able to read the 'Conversations of Confucius,' or at least this was considered needful ten years ago." "The Japanese also, according to this authority, wear nothing but heavy wooden clogs," which prevent the freedom of locomotion, and turn the distinctive gait of man into a captive's shuffle." He is evidently unaware of the fact that sandals of various kinds are worn in Japan, and that for long distances they are much preferable as foot gear to ordinary European shoes or boots. The *Edinburgh Review* can hardly be congratulated on its article on Japan, and this is all the more surprising because as a rule that periodical has the best articles of any European magazine on Chinese subjects.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* says:—It is rumoured that His Excellency Iwakura now staying in Kyoto either intends to resign, or has already or done so; we have also recently heard that his Excellency, having nearly recovered from sickness, will return to Tokio before His Imperial Majesty the Mikado arrives in the capital.

THE same paper remarks:—In the law drawing office in the Daijokwan, a new code of mercantile laws is being compiled by foreign *employes* belonging to the foreign department; as this code is in great request the Genroin have stopped the examination of a new marine act which it has had in hand.

THE University of Tokio has made a "new departure" and, to our thinking, a very extraordinary one. They recently applied to the Swedenborg Society, British and Foreign, for a set of the writings of Swedenborg. The application has been granted and a second set was given at the same time to the library of the Union Theological Seminary in Tankyō Tokio, which is largely used by English-reading Japanese. Now that the university has got the works of this æsthetic divine what on earth will it do with them? Are there any "spiritualists" connected with that learned body? After this, if we should at any time hear of its professors or pupils instituting a search after the "philosopher's stone," or of their being busily engaged in brewing or distilling the "elixir of life" it would not cause us any very great surprise.

THE *Argus*, in its issue of the 10th. instant, referred to the case of F. da Roza v. Goto Shojiro, and reproduced the petition which has already appeared our columns. Our contemporary thinks that the decision arrived at by the *joto saibansho* will appear strange to those who are unacquainted with the manner in which the law is administered in Japan. He asserts that the judges know very little of existing codes or of the forms of procedure and are very far from being impartial: an arbitrary despotism prevails and, as a natural consequence, the justice sought for is often very difficult to obtain. Thus, in the present case, to obtain the evidence of Mr. Goto Shojiro it was necessary to petition H. I. M. the Mikado in order that he might be summonsed; but as the gentleman in question has great influence in high quarters the judges dare not fine or otherwise punish him for contempt of court, and he therefore comes or stays away as he thinks proper. This will give some idea of a Japanese tribunal and of how justice is administered in the "Morning Land."

THE following circular note has been delivered to the foreign houses interested in silk. To the signatures we have appended in parentheses the more familiar firm names known to foreigners, information to assist the identification of the signatories, always a work of great difficulty owing to the strong similarity in Japanese names, and the irregular habit of frequently making changes therein.

The rules are in course of translation, and will be made public as soon as possible unless doing so will be to advertise the company gratis, which we have no intention of doing.

THE RENGO KIITO NIADZUKARISHO,  
September 13th, 1881.

DEAR SIRS:—We have the honour to send this letter to you, hoping you are quite well in spite of the hot season.

We wish to bring to your notice that we, the undersigned, carrying on the same business, have established the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho, by mutual agreement, and will carry on our business on and after September 15th, in accordance with the rules, of which we send you a copy herewith.

We intend to continue building godowns, and to do everything necessary for affording the utmost convenience to purchasers and

sellers, but we request you to make any suggestions you desire.

Yours truly,

(Mitsui Bussan Kaisha)	MUMAGOSHI KIOHEI.
(Boyeki Shokwai and Mitsui Bishi Co.)	ASAFUKI YEIJI.
(Nozawaya)	MOGI SOBBI.
(Kameya)	HARA ZENZABURO.
	SHIBUSAWA KISAKU.

The following is a list of names of the sellers joined with this company, to which we also call your attention.

(Kameya)	HARA ZENZABURO.
(Nozawaya)	MOGI SOBBI.
	SHIBUSAWA SAKUTARO.
(The Mitsui Bussan Kaisha)	MUMAGOSHI KIOHEI.
(Boyeki Shokwai and Mitsui Bishi Co.)	ASAFUKI YEIJI.
(Sekitanya)	HIRANUMA SENZO.
(Tonomura Riohei)	KAWASOYE GENGIRO.
	WAKAO IKUZO.
(Nozawaya)	NAKASATO CHUBBI.
(Itoya)	TANAKA HEIHACHI.
(Manager of Kotsuke Company)	UYEDA SHIROZAYEMON.
(Tomiya)	HORIGOSHI KINZABURO.
(Kioya)	TABBI YOSHIBEI.
(Fusisawaya)	TAKAHASHI MANTYEMON.
	KAWAGITA HISATARO.
(Fuso Shokai)	KOYASU SHUN.
(Doshin Kwaisha)	TAKAKI SABURO.
(Sudzukiya)	SUDZUKI UYEMON.
	HAGIHARA KENJIRO.
	NIISHIMA KIMBEI.
	YAMADA KOMAKICHI.
	IISHIMA YUZO.
	AMEMIYA KEIJIRO.
	SHIBUSAWA YOSABURO.
(Sekitanya)	WATANABE FUKUSABURO.
(Maruya)	KASAWARA MEGUMU.

THE gale which raged with considerable violence during the later part of Tuesday night and the whole of yesterday morning has, we are glad to say, passed over without doing any serious damage to property either on the settlement or on the bluff. The wind began to rise between 11 and 12 o'clock on Tuesday night and was at its height between 5 and 6 a.m. yesterday morning, blowing from S.S.W. After 6 o'clock it calmed down slightly. On the Bluff the damage is confined to a few tiles off the roofs of the more exposed dwelling houses, and the blowing down of some trees and fences. In the settlement the loss is extremely small; we noticed some plaster had been blown off several houses, but in all probability it was loose before the gale commenced; in other respects the damage is almost nil. The Japanese however have not been quite so fortunate; the rickety nature of their houses renders them more liable to damage, and on Noge hill they have been sadly blown about. On some of them parts of the roof are gone, and innumerable *shoji* are scattered in all directions. Large quantities of shingle were distributed broadcast, and from accounts we have received, the inhabitants of that part of the Bluff must have had a lively time of it during the night in looking after their windows; as indeed as had several residents on our own bluff. Although several of the vessels in harbour dragged their anchors and drifted for short distances and the men-of-war considered it necessary to get under steam to keep headway there was no damage done, but we are sorry to have to record considerable loss of life and property occasioned by the drifting and wreckage of three of the Pacific Mail Steam Company's cargo barges. These barges

had been engaged in the landing of cargo from the steamer *Belgic* which arrived here on Monday evening from San Francisco and were anchored for the night outside the English hatoba. The force of the wind made two of them drag their anchors and drift on the beach near the fort at Kanagawa and the other was sunk near the steamer. Some twelve sendoes were drowned, or killed by violence, and about three hundred packages of merchandize were lost.

THE hesitation shown by the United States to adopt the revised code of "Regulations for preventing collisions at sea" has created some difficulty in carrying those regulations into effect. In August last year H.B.M. *chargé d'affaires* in Washington made certain representations to the government calling attention to the inconvenience United States ships were likely to suffer from the non-recognition of rules intended to secure uniformity in the prevention of collisions at sea, whereupon notice was given by the United States government that "compliance by vessels of the United States with these regulations while navigating foreign waters will not entail any penalties upon them on their return to this country." This permissive order was to some extent satisfactory, but we observe with pleasure from a copy of a general order issued by the department of state, May 1st, 1881, that these regulations are now adopted for the naval service of the United States "in so far as the navigation of naval vessels outside of the United States territorial waters is concerned. Within the waters of the United States, vessels will be guided by the regulations for preventing collisions as specified in section 4233 of the United States revised statutes."

The circular, clear in all other respects, is somewhat obscure in expressly notifying the adherence of the United States to the new regulations, but there seems no doubt that such adherence is now formally notified. To the circular is appended the revised international regulations, the modifications of the old rules being printed in italics, careful examination and comparison being enjoined upon all officers of the navy.

The consular officers at all maritime stations have been furnished with copies of the general order, and masters of American vessels can obtain one on application. We would gladly reproduce the whole circular in these columns, but in addition to the facts that the rules have been already printed and space is precious, the utility of such a course is open to doubt.

LOVERS of good breakfast bacon will be glad to hear that there is a prospect of shortly being able to procure really well cured bacon prepared in the neighbourhood. It is well known that English hams and bacon cannot be imported as a rule at a reasonable price and in good condition; and the American bacon, although sometimes a fairly well flavoured piece is obtainable, is not generally free from a strong flavour which militates against its general consumption for breakfast, with or without eggs.

We are now informed, that a gentleman practically acquainted with bacon saving, who has already succeeded in producing hams and bacon of a quality which has elicited universal encomium, is about to start a piggyery and bacon curing establishment on a moderately large scale, with a view of supplying the Japan and China markets with a really appetising article; and is about to, or has already, made the

necessary application through his consul, to obtain the grant of a piece of ground in the neighbourhood of the rifle range so as to carry on the business without giving annoyance to persons residing within the limits of the Yokohama and Bluff settlements; in the same way as has been granted to the proprietors of several dairy establishments.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* has the following report of births, deaths, and marriages in the city of Tokio for May last, prepared by the Tokio-fu:—

BIRTHS.		
Male .....	824	
Female .....	805	1,629
DEATHS.		
Male .....	938	
Female .....	816	1,754
Marriages .....	611	
Abortions .....	121	
Divorces .....	297	

It is always gratifying to hear of the extension of banking operations, but doubts exist as to the wisdom of making advances on the security of Japanese paper. The *Japan Herald* gives a rumour to the effect that some time "one of the foreign banks made a loan of some \$300,000 against kinsatsu, which sum is believed to have been applied to bolstering up the price of silk." This particular foreign bank is to be congratulated upon the possession of so much money that it can afford to lend a large sum upon a kind of security the share holders will do well to investigate at the next general meeting; but the foreign merchants of Yokohama cannot, in their turn, be congratulated upon the opposition to all sound business operations recently commenced by a few Japanese and materially strengthened by the assistance of those financial institutions which foreign merchants here have largely assisted to found and maintain.

THE *Akebono Shinbun* says that the return of His Imperial Majesty the Mikado to Tokio was fixed for the 4th. or 5th. of next month, but he has suddenly changed his intention; it is now said that H. I. M. will return sometime during this month.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* remarks:—Mr. Yamaoka, junior vice minister of the household department, and Mr. Nagasaki, a secretary of the same department, and some under officials have been ordered to make preparations for the reception of the sons of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and they will attend at the Yenriokwan (a palace for their Highnesses) from the 20th. instant, day and night.

THE same paper says:—The new fire insurance regulations which have been drawn up by a special committee appointed by the home and finance department and Tokio-fu, are about to be forwarded to the cabinet, from which they will be sent to the Genro In. It is said that when these regulations are published, a central fire insurance office is to be first established in Tokio, belonging to the home and finance department; but as an experiment, the present fire insurance section of the Tokio-fu will execute the business.

AMONGST the names of the passengers who arrived here by the S. S. *Belgic* last night we note those of Lord and Lady Harris and

Lord Zouche. Their lordships are celebrated cricketers, Lord Harris having for several years been captain of the Kent county eleven, in addition to taking a prominent part in the finest matches at home.

THE 400 yards handicap of the *Société Suisse de Tir* was shot on Monday afternoon. The following is the score.

WINNERS.			
1st Prize	Mr. Stiebel	2.....	41 39
2nd "	Mr. Culty	5.....	43 38
3rd "	Mr. Dourille	4.....	42 38
4th "	Mr. Dubois	8.....	45 37
5th "	Mr. Salabelle	0.....	37 37
6th "	Mr. Hurlmann	3.....	40 37

Mr. Gilbert (12) made the highest score:—

5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 4..... 49 37  
He was a "tie" at 37 but graciously left the prizes to his competitors.

THE *Mai-nichi Shinbun* says that the regulations for saving wrecked ships, laid down by a treaty between Japan and the United States will shortly be published.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* says that the examination of the regulations for companies prepared by the agricultural and commercial department is completed and they have been forwarded to the cabinet.

IN another column we publish a continuation of the report of the case of *F. da Roza v. Government of Japan*. We are now informed that the plaintiff will next take proceedings in the dai shin in.

THE expected arrival of the Flying Squadron and the assemblage in those waters of the China fleet, suggest the advisability of our Choral Society availing themselves of so good an opportunity to give pleasure to our visitors as well as the community, and to add considerably to the funds of the society. *H. M. S. Pinafore* will certainly attract two crowded houses; and if *The Pirates of Penzance*, an opera said to be in contemplation for the opening of this season, can be brought forward, four bumper audiences may be confidently relied on.

MR. P. BOHM is about venturing upon a new enterprise which is likely, when known, to receive much support. Two years ago an attempt was made to establish a lighter company for loading and discharging cargo in the harbour, but, promising as the company's prospects were, it never commenced business. Mr. Bohm is now about to try what can be done by means of good lighters, and crews permanently engaged, to lessen the losses by theft which are inseparable from the present mode of landing.

Yesterday afternoon a large barge, built on the swamp from the designs and under the supervision of Mr. Bohm, was launched in the creek at high water. This vessel is 50 feet long, 18 in width, and 7 depth of hold. A covered hatch will rise two feet above the deck to facilitate the stowage of light and bulky cargo; and two movable masts with Chinese sails, large sculls, &c., will form the propelling gear. This barge will be able to carry from 80 to 100 tons dead weight, and a proportionate quantity of measurement goods. Should the venture be successful and receive support, other barges will be built, and a powerful steam launch will be procured for towage purposes.

An enterprise of this kind deserves support at the hands of those merchants who have suffered from the persistent pilfering which

seems, according to our experienced correspondent "Marinus," to be an inherent and ineradicable vice of the Japanese ship labourer.

A PERSON signing himself Herman Friebe, has addressed a letter to the *Choya Shinbun*, the publication of which reflects in the most serious manner upon the intelligence of the editors of that popular journal. Perhaps our respected contemporary has not had sufficient experience of these tricksters, who endeavour to drag themselves out of the muddy obscurity which is their appropriate element by imposing upon newspapers so far as to obtain the publication of their names as fitting appendages to the childish trash they have the intolerable impudence to put forward as truth. Mr. H. Friebe, whoever he may be, is of this class; and we have no hesitation in asserting that in a short letter he has contrived to pack more misstatements, erroneous deductions, malicious libels, and contemptible reflections upon foreigners, none of whose shoes Mr. Friebe is worthy to clean, than any other of the scurrilous slanderers, Mr. House not excepted, that have pestered the local press in vain during the past five years, and have now apparently found a fitting channel for the publication of their precious epistles. We warn, in all good faith, our contemporaries against persons of Mr. Friebe's class and social standing; persons whose ignorance is a means to make mischief and create dissensions on bases that never had existence in fact.

Mr. Friebe, if we are not mistaken, recently expressed his anxiety to become a naturalized Japanese, on which action our contemporary of the *Hiogo News* made some fitting comments. To the tender mercies of that journal we commend Mr. Friebe and all his works.

MR. IWAMURA, governor of Miyeken, now staying in Tokio, is said to have entered into negotiations with the Mitsu Bishi company and Mitsui Bank, in connection with holding shares in a proposed railway between Otsu and Yokkaichi, and these two companies are reported to have consented to the proposition made by the governor. It is supposed therefore, that when he returns to the ken in his charge, the construction of the railway will be commenced forthwith.

It is said that a new ken will be established under the name of Tottoriken and its jurisdiction will include the two provinces of Iuaba and Hoki.

H. E. KURODA the head of the Kaitakushi, accompanied by his staff, arrived at Yokohama by the *Genbunaru* the day before yesterday.

WE hear that the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho will commence its operations, from the 15th. instant. *Apropos* of this subject, collectors of silk in Jioshiu held a meeting and discussed the question of reducing the rates of commission now paid to wholesale merchants, that is, one dollar for every thousand dollars of proceeds, on the ground that they (the collectors) have to pay an additional rate to the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho in addition to a fee for the examination of their goods at the Aratamesho, and therefore the commission in question has become too exorbitant. They decided to send a representative to Yokohama to ask for the reduction. The demand being reasonable the wholesale dealers will, we doubt not, entertain the application.

OWING to the fresh winds blowing yesterday, no steamers plied between here and Yokoska, and *vice versa*.

THE *Hochi Shinbun* says, that the household department will provide three state carriages for the use of the sons of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. One will be sent to Yokohama, one to the Shinbashi station, and the other to the Yenriokwan, on the 23rd. instant; officials of the department inspected them yesterday.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* says, that cholera has broken out in Shanghai and has a tendency to spread; the government have ordered strict supervision to be paid to vessels arriving at Yokohama from Shanghai.

WE have been favored with a copy of the papers submitted to the Hongkong Legislative Council on the meteorological observatory proposed to be erected in that colony. The idea emanated from the Kew Committee of the Royal Society and has been heartily entered into both by the Colonial Secretary of State and Sir John Pope Hennessy. An elaborate and most interesting report has been drawn up on the subject by Major Palmer, R.E. who appears to have made the science of meteorology his especial study. The many demands on our space prevent us from giving his remarks *in extenso*; we have therefore to content ourselves with a brief *resumé* which will, at any rate, give some idea of the importance of this undertaking. The "objects and reasons" are thus set forth in a letter, quoted by Major Palmer, from Mr. Blanford meteorological reporter to the government of India:—

The results of the meteorological system established by the government of India have now demonstrated the fact that the monsoons of India are distinct in origin and goal from those of the China seas. Each region is characterised by features peculiar to it, and we have now accumulated a large amount of data relating to the Indian monsoons which will receive a great extension so soon as the nautical logs now in course of extraction and tabulation in the London Meteorological Office shall be available for discussion. But in the case of the China seas, our information is but little advanced beyond the stage to which it was carried by Dové and Piddington. A first class observatory has indeed been established by the Jesuit Fathers at Shanghai, and another is now in course of equipment at Manila. But much more than this is required for the study of the China monsoons; and the proposed observatory at Hongkong will be a most valuable addition to the system.

The three chief objects aimed at in the proposed observatory are:—

To determine the local time by astronomical observations, and drop a time-ball daily.

To obtain series of meteorological observations with instruments of the best kinds, and to acquire information relating to the typhoons and monsoons of the China seas.

To obtain series of observations in terrestrial magnetism, also with the best modern apparatus.

To effect all this the most approved modern instruments (many of which are self-registering) will be employed. The proposed site of the observatory is Mount Elgin on the Kowloon Peninsula. The estimated annual cost is \$10,000. The scheme is one that deserves every encouragement and support and is one that cannot fail to be appreciated by meteorologists connected with the observatories at Tokio and elsewhere in Japan.

THE *Choya Shinbun* publishes the following official report of the typhoon on the 14th. inst.

At 9 a.m. on the 13th. instant, the observatory at Nagasaki telegraphed that the barometer had already fallen to 39.56 inches, and seemed to be still falling, and that the thermometer showed 86°; N.E.N. wind was then blowing at the rate of fourteen English miles. The observatory reported this observation, perhaps because it foresaw a typhoon coming from the China sea by the low reading of the barometer and unusual high temperature, though the wind was not strong at the time. Judging from the direction of the wind, it seemed that the vortex of the typhoon bore eastward of Nagasaki, but whilst the barometer was still falling, no signs of it were observed near that place.

With regard to the direction of the vortex when in motion; one observation was not sufficient to ascertain it, therefore the central observatory is waiting for a telegram from the Hiroshima and Wakayama observatories, from which no communication has yet been received, either on account of there having been no signs of a storm or of telegraphic communication being interrupted between Tokio and those places.

In Tokio clouds rose from the north on the evening of the 12th instant, and gradually covered the whole sky, whilst the rain poured down in torrents; a northerly wind was blowing at the time. At 1.40 a.m. on the 14th. instant, the direction of the wind suddenly changed, and it became more violent.

The following table shows the direction and force of the wind and the reading of the barometer.

	Barometer.	Thermometer.	Force of W. p.h.	Direction.
9 p.m. on the 17th.	30.032	69.7	4.4	E.N.E.
9 a.m. " " 13th.	29.942	66.4	6.3	N.
19 p.m. " " "	29.802	68.8	8.3	N.
2 " " " "	29.682	68.4	3.0	N.
3 a.m. " " 14th.	29.464	76.3	17.6	S.E.
4 " " " "	29.361	78.3	37.1	S.E.S.
5 " " " "	29.289	75.7	41.6	S.E.S.
6 " " " "	29.222	77.6	39.6	S.
6.15 " " " "	*29.171	78.7		
7 " " " "	29.235	79.5	41.2	S.W.S.
8 " " " "	29.314	80.1	40.1	S.W.S.
9 " " " "	29.399	79.9	36.1	S.W.S.
10 " " " "	29.429	82.2	24.1	S.W.S.
11 " " " "	29.445	85.2	26.6	S.W.
12 noon " " "	29.446	85.4	25.6	S.W.

\* This was the lowest reading during the prevalence of the typhoon.

The greatest velocity of wind was observed at 4.30 a.m. and then it was 60 miles per hour.

From the above table, it will be seen that the vortex of the typhoon passed to the west of Tokio, and was nearest to the central observatory at about 6.15 a.m. on the 14th. instant. It is supposed that at 9 a.m. on the 13th. when the telegram was despatched from Nagasaki, the centre of the typhoon, was at the distance of 520 miles (marine), and the velocity of the moving centre, on an average, 25 miles per hour. If the centre proceeded at this rate to the north, it must have arrived at Hakodate at 8 p.m. The central observatory reported its observations by telegraph when the direction of the wind changed and the barometer had fallen unusually low. It is not yet definitely known, however, whether it so arrived there or not.

THE *Choya Shinbun* says, that according to an official enquiry into damages in Tokio made by the last gale, 36 houses and shades were blown down, and 14 damaged. Four fishing boats were wrecked off Shinagawa.



How unfortunate Japan is in having a commercial community so willing to be the cat's paw of a speculative official clique, as to frame monopolies and close combinations to their individual losses and furtherance of the objects of one or two wire pullers actually, if not ostensibly, put forward by the finance department or its banking interest. The latest illustration of this too great willingness is the establishment of a close combination of silk dealers, under the patronage and influence of the government, and some of their banks, whose inauguration has been heralded by a steady down-fall in the value of paper money! Is this the object of the combination? Of course, as we have said before, if the government or their banks were to appear on the Yokohama market as purchasers of bullion for remittance abroad, paper money would go suddenly to the low point to which it appears to be now drifting gradually. Do the combining merchants know they are being made tools of? Have they any suspicion that the promoters of this combination never gave one thought to the interests of the merchants? And, so long as the objects of the promoters are carried out the country may "go hang." Now a word to the foreign commercial community, which we hope may be carefully considered by the ministers of foreign powers. Has any body seen the rules regulating the conduct of this precious confraternity? Rules have certainly been sent to foreign silk buyers in a congratulatory letter upon their escape from the hot season, and expressing a hope that their health has not been impaired by the late excessive heat. But what are these rules? They are the rules that have appeared before the government and the public as guiding the company's operations; but they are not the totality of the rules that the combination actually have obtained signatures to from all shareholders or members of the guild. Rules such as the following exist secretly; that is, they are carefully hidden from the public at large. Any person in Yokohama, that is to say, foreigner, who purchases his silk through any other means than the guild will never be allowed to purchase any from the guild: any silk producer or merchant in the interior, in Tokio, or Yokohama, who sells to the foreigner without passing the silk through the guild, or selling it under the guild rules, will never be allowed to send silk to Yokohama again. Now the promoters of this combination declare that in consequence of their not having sufficient money to maintain the entire monopoly of the silk trade without assistance, the government have advanced to the guild one million of paper yen; and three national banks, which are also government concerns, have advanced 750,000 yen besides. What does this mean? Of course, if the government have advanced one million yen they know something of the transaction; and the silk advanced against by the government and their bank are under lien to the advancers for a specie return which does not come back to the commercial part of the country for the benefit of trade. This is simply a grander operation to the same end than that of the Specie Bank, to which we lately referred, of lending large sums in paper to producers on the condition that the produce is sent abroad for conversion into bullion on the lenders' account, with the result, whether intended or not, of "Boycotting" the foreigner and ruining the trading prospects of the country generally.

What with the Kaitakushi swindle, the Specie Bank's interference with the freedom of Japanese trade, the Mitsui Bishi obstruction to cheap coast carriage of all the nation's produce, the country has heavy burdens to bear and insurmountable difficulties to overcome—until the people understand their position.

If anything can create suspicion, it is the persistent and obstinate manner in which the *Japan Mail* repeats its denials of the report, subsequently verified by evidence which admits of no doubt, that H. E. Sanjo, prime minister, followed his Majesty to Senju and there obtained the imperial consent and signature to a document which the Emperor had, not more than two days previously, resolutely refused to sanction.

Why does the *Japan Mail* continue to deny this fact, so thoroughly known to be a fact in this country; and take every opportunity to ridicule any remarks in either native or foreign journals relative to this fact? The only answer that can be given by those who now know the relation the *Japan Mail* holds to the Japanese government, is, that the *Japan Mail* must have been desired by its supporters to deny abroad, (not in Japan) to the politicians to whom the numerous copies of the *Mail* are sent to gratis, that such an extraordinary proceeding not only never took place, but its occurrence would be an impossibility under any circumstances; and that the report originated entirely in the brains of pseudo reporters of the Japanese press, in order to give a zest to their publications.

The circumstances are too well known. They were communicated to the public by eye-witnesses, and any denial in the *Mail* which is read by well-informed Japanese only gives the latter fuller proof of its subservieny to the Japanese ministry, than the editor's own assertions with regard to his subsidy and its conditions, do to the foreign public.

In the morning supplement of the 16th. instant we reported the arrival here of the captain (Dick) and crew of the barque *Wellington*, which was wrecked near Misaki, four miles on the other side of Yokosima light, on Wednesday morning during the gale which was felt here. The following account has been given us by the chief officer. The *Wellington* was a barque of 587 tons register, and was owned by Mr. D. H. McKenzie of Auckland, New Zealand. She was on a voyage from Newcastle, N.S.W., with a cargo of coals to Yokohama.

She left Newcastle on the 9th. July and for the first three days had heavy weather; it improved, however, afterwards until the island of Oshima was sighted on Friday the 9th. instant when light winds were experienced. When they had passed Oshima strong northerly winds set in, and occasionally they were forced to run into land for shelter which considerably prolonged the voyage. Between midnight and 1 a.m. on Wednesday morning last, the wind was northerly, but at 1.30 it suddenly shifted to the south and increased to a strong gale, the barometer reading 29.73. All sails were taken in with the exception of the two lower topsails; the lower foretopsails and sheet were carried away. Knowing they were on a lee shore they tried to put on more sails, but in attempting to do so they blew away. At 3 a.m. sighted Yokosima light at the entrance of the bay and at 3.30, finding the ship would not weather it, on account of being unable to get on the other tack through loss of sails,

all ground tackle was immediately got ready for bringing her to. The lead was kept going and at 5 o'clock found ten fathoms; at 5.10, seven and a half, when both anchors were let go, the ship turning broadside on to beach. The part of the top sail which the wind had not carried away was cut free to ease the ship. Finding the vessel was driving, all hands immediately got ready the boats and whilst this was being done she struck the ground two or three times. The main deck opened in front of the cabin and broke up fast; all hands were on the after part. The vessel was lying quite close to the shore and one or two of the crew jumped into the water and, after a struggle, got on shore where the Japanese who had come to their assistance caught hold of them and dragged them on to dry land. The mizzen mast had gone through the bottom and when the vessel turned on its side, some of the crew were able to get safely on shore by holding on to the mast and the others landed by the deck-house. One man, a seaman, in swimming on shore got amongst the wreckage and received some rather dangerous scalp wounds and bruises about the face. All the others escaped with severe scratches. Nothing was saved from the vessel in the way of clothes and the men are consequently nearly destitute. The Japanese treated them with the greatest kindness providing shelter and offering food which, however, they were not forced to eat as a ham and some tins of biscuits were washed ashore, affording them fare more to their taste. The wreck broke up rapidly, and in less than twenty minutes from the time they landed she was in pieces. It was about six o'clock in the morning when they got on shore and they stayed until yesterday afternoon, leaving at one o'clock in a fishing boat which the governor had provided for them and arrived here this morning at 2 a.m. During the whole of the voyage the pumps were carefully attended to, the vessel making one inch of water per hour.

The men are very grateful to the natives for the kindness they showed them and have desired us to express their thanks. The crew would be thankful for any spare clothing as they are at present unable to leave the house for want of it; donations can be left at Mr. McKenzie's No. 102, Homura Road.

THE motto of those foreigners who are paid to write up the Japanese demand for abrogation of extra-territoriality, is to be found in the pages of Montaigne. Translated it reads as follows:—"We must not always speak all that we know; that were folly; but what a man says should be what he thinks, otherwise it is knavery."

THE M.B.M.S.S. Co.'s steamer *Wakanoura Maru* arrived at the anchorage on Saturday afternoon (17th. inst.), having been completely repaired at Yokoska; she will as hitherto, be engaged in the trade between Kobe and this port.

WE are sorry to learn that a telegram has been received by the Italian consul here announcing the death of Mr. Isidoro dell'Oro, which took place either just before, or immediately after arrival of the *Gaelic* at San Francisco.

Mr. dell'Oro, one of the few Italian residents, commenced business in Yokohama many years ago, his firm being among the oldest in Japan. Well known and esteemed, many friends will hear of his premature death with regret.

THE letter in another column from the Reverend A. C. Shaw of Tokio, appeals for aid in the education and support of two orphan boys brought up from the Bonin Islands by the U. S. S. *Alert*. Mr. Shaw's letter supplies all requisite particulars to warrant the benevolent in granting their assistance to so praiseworthy and deserving an object, and we venture to commend the matter to public attention.

Mr. Thompson writes to the following effect:—"I am so anxious that the boys should not lose this opportunity of gaining such knowledge as will be very useful to them on returning to their homes, that I am quite willing to continue their English education, instruct them in dispensing &c., and contribute liberally towards their support; but my limited means will not permit me wholly to maintain them."

The calls upon private charity are great, but there is a duty imposed upon us to divide the burden as much as possible: all donations in this case will therefore relieve two kind-hearted gentlemen from a charge which, though falling heavily upon them will not be felt by the community at large.

No, "Argus," you are quite mistaken. Five hundred dollars per month is not enough to bribe this journal to advocate your views on the currency question; nor are your oblique references to "shares in commission" sufficient additional inducement. We may, however, tell you at once what our terms are. First, and most important, the monthly payments must be made in advance, and in coin, that is, there must be neither cheques nor notes payment of which might be stopped. Second, payment must be commensurate with the quality of the work, and the nature and extent of the damage it is likely to do. Thus, we will advocate the abolition of extra-territoriality and recommend foreign submission (especially of the *Japan Herald*) to Japanese law, for a merely nominal sum, say \$600. This low figure is fixed, because it is certain that all the advocacy of the press, native and foreign, can not in any way affect the question. We are prepared to support the gagging of the foreign press, and the necessity of a Japanese censor; and the theory that the editor, publisher, and printer of a newspaper containing any reference to the abuses which flourish in our midst, should be transported to the Kurile islands for ten years, and all their property confiscated to the use of the purchasers of the Kaitakushi. For such extreme nonsense as that we must have fair remuneration; not on the ground that the public interest will suffer, but because the action would stamp us as idiots, a distinction we are not anxious to enjoy. Similar reward would be required to induce us to express belief in the *Japan Mail's* disclaimer that it is uninfluenced by the monthly payments of the foreign office, and that, subsequently to March 13th, its utterances have been the outcome of "honest conviction." Protection, as the true commercial policy, shall be put forward for a reward commensurate with the labour required to support the fallacy, in a plausible manner, and to bear with equanimity the destruction of our arguments by every adversary who cared to enter the lists. For \$2,500, we will denounce the greed of the cunning foreigner, and the shameless persistency of his frauds upon the honourable and simple-minded Japanese. For \$5,000, we will prove to the satisfaction of every one who knows nothing about it, that paper, irrespective of its convertibility,

is far superior as currency, and as a standard of value, to the precious metals. Nothing will give us greater pleasure, if we are well enough paid, than to demonstrate that the "rise in the value of silver" is consequent upon the bad balance of trade, the iniquitous treaties, the infamy of the Chinese money dealers, and the trickery of foreigners in general. For a similar payment we will flatter all Japanese to the top of their bent; not indiscriminate, fulsome, eulogy, such as Sir John Hennessy, and Sir E. J. Reed beslobbered H. E. Okuma with; but specious compliments on the soundness of the government's financial and trade policy, and the wisdom, prudence, and independence of the people in their commercial transactions. We should warmly congratulate the latter on the possession of the Kwansei Boyeki, and other Shokwai, the Specie Bank, and the host of national banks which control the commerce of the nation; and upon that "gem of purest ray serene," that ornament to a civilized state, the Mitsui Bishi Company, which controls and obstructs the whole coast carrying trade of the empire for the benefit of one favoured person, the greatest-tax master in Japan.

Upon these lines we are prepared to act with a clean conscience, and a tenacity of purpose that will daunt those who may have the temerity to doubt that the opinions expressed in these columns are not the "outcome of honest independent conviction."

Now "Argus" you know our terms. If corruption is to be the order of the day, we should like a share of the common plunder, for which we will give a receipt by publicly acknowledging, at the head of each article, the sum paid for its composition and publication.

The *Japan Mail*, in its fawning sycophancy to its employers, extols the "leniency the government has displayed towards the newspapers in this affair of the colonization commission." Does this mean that newspaper criticism on the Kaitakushi jobbery should be stifled by fine, imprisonment, or suspension? If so, what punishment would the *Japan Mail* advocate as applicable to those who, like the speakers at the Shintomiza theatre, use plain terms to express plain and honest indignation at what is justly termed a gross piece of jobbery which the government ought never to sanction?

THE paid journalist must be under the impression that his readers are children, incompetent to form correct impressions of what they hear and know. With the full details of the journey of H. E. Sanjo, the action of H. E. Kuroda, the participation of the notorious Godai, in the project the furious indignation openly expressed by the press and people in spite of press laws and restrictions upon speech, concerning this Kaitakushi jobbery, the *Mail* has the effrontery to say,—"Some improper scheme must have been on foot, but that it ever received, or was ever likely to receive, official sanction, we cannot believe, and each fresh event, so far from shaking, helps to confirm our incredulity." What is the *Mail* about? It is hazarding its government subscription for three hundred copies by making any such rash confession as that the Kaitakushi affair is an "improper scheme."

THE *Choya Shinbun* refers to a rumour published by one of its Osaka contemporaries relative to a letter which had been addressed by a bank in Tokio to another in Osaka, in which it was stated that a new foreign loan had been sanctioned by the government to the tune of \$50,000,000. The *Choya Shinbun*

delicately hints that the Tokio bank is in some way connected with a certain high official from which inspired source it gained its information. Our vernacular contemporary is careful to add that he does not vouch for the truth of the story, but simply gives it *quantum valeat*.

THE *Choya Shinbun* says:—A telegram announces that His Majesty the Mikado arrived at Akita at 1.20 p.m. on the 16th. instant.

THE same paper remarks:—The *Kenshiu-maru*, a sailing ship, belonging to the Fuhansen Kwaisha arrived at Sydney on the 1st. August last. She left Yokohama on the 25th. of May and sailed 6,426 miles in 68 days at the rate of 3.97 miles per hour. This is the first sailing vessel that has made a voyage to a foreign country navigated by Japanese alone.

THE *Hochi Shinbun* says that the Chugai Bukka Shingo has hitherto received an annual subsidy of 3,000 yen from the government; but their will have expenditure to be economized in future as the said subsidy is to be discontinued next year.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* says:—We mentioned before that the Kaitakushi affair will be settled after His Majesty the Mikado returns from the north; but now a rumour prevails that if the Kaitakushi is permitted to continue in existence for the next five years its the present head will be replaced by one of the members of the Genroin; we do not vouch for the truth of the rumour, but give it for what it is worth.

THE same paper announces that the inspection of ships coming from Shanghai for the detection of persons infected with cholera was commenced on the 17th. inst. with the *Hiroshima-maru*, but there was no one so infected on board.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* says:—Several rumours prevailed about the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho at Yokohama before it commenced operations, and so we have been anxious about its prospects in business. So far everything has been satisfactory, and on the 17th. instant, a quantity of silk was sold to foreign houses. If the business continues to flourish, the members of the company will succeed in their object, the projectors' efforts will not have been vain, and good results will be secured. On the day above named 109 bales were sold to foreigners, but the establishment being inconvenient for them, they are said to advance selfish arguments against it. Silk merchants amongst them intend to hold a meeting for discussing the action of the company with a view to sending information to the foreign office through their ministers; but at present such one sided policy on their part will not be admitted.

As His Imperial Majesty the Mikado returns sooner than the date first named some preparations are being made at the Imperial palace for his reception.

THE Russian cruiser *Asia* which arrived here from Vladivostok on Saturday, when 180 miles from Yokohama and forty from the nearest coast in latitude 36° 30' and longitude 141° 40' sighted a disabled Japanese fishing boat about three miles off their course. The vessel's head was immediately turned towards the boat which, on approach,

was found to be submerged with the exception of the bows. As they drew near the *Asia's* steering tackle went wrong and it therefore took some time to get alongside. A Japanese, who was lying in the junk sat up and shouted but appeared to be unable to stand erect as he fell back every time he attempted to do so. When they came close to the boat, they saw that this man was the only person on board; he was lying on what appeared to be two masts which were laid crossways and he was so weak as to be unable to climb on to the steamer, and had consequently to be lifted and hoisted up. He was in a bad state, having apparently had nothing to eat for several days, he was almost speechless, and could swallow nothing. On arrival here, the Japanese authorities were communicated with by whom an interpreter was sent on board. The man said he was one of a crew of fifteen of the fishing boat which had been in company with another craft similarly manned. They had been fishing. A storm coming on, his boat was damaged and water came into her. The crew, with the exception of himself, immediately got into the other boat but he was by some accident left behind, and the sea running high, the boats could not come together again. He was therefore left to his fate. He succeeded in crossing the masts and lay down on them. The sharks, he said, bit him about the knees and elbows, but were unable to lay hold of him. The officers on board the *Asia* report having their attention first attracted to the boat by the large number of those fish which were springing about it. When they took the man on board they found he was injured and scratched about the arms and body. He had, he said, been without food for six days when he was picked up; but if so, the storm experienced here must have been a distinct one from that in which his boat was damaged, though it is probable that he exaggerates as to the length of time. The officers of the *Asia* are of opinion that he had perhaps being starving for two or three days at the longest. This escape from death is almost miraculous. The police here report that the boat which had been in company with the disabled one, into which the other fourteen of the crew had got, was afterwards lost with all hands.

In Monday's issue of the *Echo du Japon* a letter from the commander of the French corvette *Champlain* to the French Consul here is published at the request of the latter. To the letter was appended the following note:

On the 17th. September at 6.30 a.m., weather very fine and calm, being two and a half miles south of the light of Oosima on the way to Yokohama in N. 67° E., the *Champlain* came upon a track of forty miles of floating wood, trunks of trees and beams of all sizes, in numbers sufficiently large to greatly impede navigation. This debris, driven by the Kuro-siwo during the storm has been probably there for some time for, on observation, they appeared to be out of the action of the currents, and thereby constitute a serious danger to navigation.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* has the following items:—

The *Fuso Kan*, *Kongo Kan*, *Nisshin Kan*, and *Jingei Kan*, which escorted His Imperial Majesty the Mikado to the north, returned to Yokohama yesterday (21st inst.)

## Law Reports.

IN THE TOKIO JOTO SAIBANSHO.

FRANCISCO DA ROZA

versus

THE IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN.

(Second application for a hearing.)

The plaintiff respectfully shows the Honorable Court:—

In response to the plaintiff's application of 29th. August for a hearing in this case the same has now been returned through the acting consul for Portugal with an endorsement as follows:—

This application being made after the dismissal of the case is one that cannot be "argued or heard again in this Joto Saibansho," it is therefore dismissed."

By "the dismissal of the case" the plaintiff understands the court to refer to the document in the nature of a demurrer or answer dated 20th. August.

The statement of the case given in that document is by no means complete and makes no reference to the action of the finance department recited in paragraph 4 of the petition. The essence of the whole case is the charge that the government of Japan has caused injury, loss, and damage to the plaintiff by failing to fulfil the duties due to each Portuguese subject and enjoined upon it by treaty with Portugal.

The court has entertained jurisdiction of the claim and on the 1st. July has forwarded to the plaintiff the articles of the judicial code governing this class of cases; and the amended petition framed in accordance therewith was filed on the 13th. July. The document of 20th. August was received by the plaintiff through the acting consul for Portugal on the 23rd. August, but the plaintiff has never yet been heard in court; and he cannot admit that the action can be disposed of or dismissed without a hearing or argument. He desires to offer his most earnest protest against any such action by the court, and again respectfully demands as his undoubted right that he be heard; and requests that a day for such hearing be named as soon as convenient.

No question of the jurisdiction of the court to hear and try the claim has arisen; and a refusal by the court to grant a hearing to the plaintiff, and a disposition of the cause without argument will be regarded as a manifest denial of justice.

G. W. HILL.

Counsel for plaintiff.

Yokohama, 5th September, 1881.

(This application was forwarded to the court by the acting consul for Portugal in the following communication.)

5th. September, 1881.

IN RE FRANCISCO DA ROZA,

versus

THE IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN.

SIR:—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 2nd. instant. In forwarding the enclosed letter, protest, and demand on the part of the plaintiff for a hearing in the above cause I must express my inability to comprehend the meaning of the court in its refusal to hear the same

when it says: "that the cause has been dismissed."

I find nowhere in the proceedings any order of dismissal or any action whatever on the part of the court.

The plaintiff filed his petition and the defendants in reply filed their answer or demurrer, whereupon the plaintiff asked for a hearing in order that after such hearing the court might be enabled to judge as to the proper course to pursue, and to say, that because the defendants have filed a reply to the plaintiff's petition the cause is *therefore* dismissed and no hearing can be had, is so utterly unreasonable and absurd, that I am led to believe that an error has been committed by some officer of the court, as it seems incredible, that any court, and especially one of the highest courts in the Empire would thus deliberately enter upon its records, an order utterly denying justice to a subject of a friendly treaty power.

If however it has done so, if the court persists in its refusal to even hear the petition in this cause I am constrained to say, that such action is, in my opinion, such a bold violation of law, equity and treaty regulations, that I must present the whole subject to the government I have the honour to represent in a consular capacity, in order that such steps may be taken in the premises as it may deem proper.

I have the honour to remain, sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) ED. DE BAVIER.

Acting Consul for Portugal

His Honour,

NISHI SHIGINORI,

President of the Joto Saibansho, Tokio.

(Ruling of the court upon the second application for a hearing.)

This case having been dismissed in the joto saibansho, if the petitioner dissents from the dismissal, there is no other way than he should appeal to the Supreme Court (Dai Shin In). The application is therefore hereby dismissed.

(Signed) IMAMURA NOBUYUKI,  
ANDO SHIKAKU,

Judges Tokio Joto Saibansho.

Joto Saibansho Seal.

12th. September, (14th. Meiji).

'IN THE DAI SHIN IN  
(Supreme Court of Tokio.)

FRANCISCO DA ROZA, plaintiff

versus

THE IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN: Finance Department and Judicial Department, defendant.

The petition in this action is dated 15th. Sept. and is the same in form and words as the petition brought by the same plaintiff in the Tokio joto saibansho (in the *Gazette*, 31st. Aug.) with an additional paragraph as follows:—

Paragraph 11:—

"And the plaintiff further says that on the 13th. June, 1881, he began an action in the Tokio joto saibansho against the Government of Japan to enforce the claim made herein; and that an amended petition in said action was sent to that court on the

"13th. July, 1881, in form and words the same as the foregoing ten paragraphs of this petition; and that although the said court has jurisdiction of all claims brought against the Government of Japan yet the said court refused to try the said action, on the 2nd. September instant and again on the 12th. September instant dismissed and disallowed the plaintiff's application for a hearing; and the plaintiff has no other judicial resort for redress and for the enforcement of his claim than this court."

"Wherefore the plaintiff respectfully prays this court to hear and try this action under the authority given by its constitution\* to hold special trials in important cases between Japanese and foreigners; and that the plaintiff have and recover from the Government of Japan the sum of \$61,481.20 with interest thereon at the rate of 10/00 percent. per annum from the 13th. Jan. 1881, until paid and also the cost and expenses incurred in the action brought in the joto saibansho and in this action."

The plaintiff will by a separate proceeding, appeal from the ruling of the joto saibansho of the 12th. instant, refusing his application for a hearing of his action in that court by a petition of appeal to the supreme court. (dai shin in)

\* Regulations of Supreme Court Section 1, proclaimed 19th. February, 1877. The translation notified by A. H. Mouney, H. B. M.'s secretary to the legation, June 9th., 1877, is as follows:—"Judges: They will also have charge of important cases between Japanese and foreigners" In *Japan Directory*, 1879.

IN H. B. M.'S. COURT FOR JAPAN.

Before RUSSELL ROBERTSON, Esq., Acting Judge.

Friday, 16th. September, 1881.

AHRENS & Co. vs. ROGERS.

Mr. F. Lowder represented the plaintiffs and Mr. M. Kirkwood appeared for the defendant.

Plaintiffs in their petition shew, that defendant in May last, when captain of the British barque *Santon* received at Antwerp on board the said vessel 1000 cases of glass to be delivered in Yokohama or Hiogo as the plaintiffs might desire. On arrival here plaintiffs notified to the defendant their wish that the goods should be carried to Hiogo. The defendant, without the authority and against the desire of the plaintiffs, transhipped a portion of it at Yokohama on board another vessel which conveyed it to Hiogo. On arrival there it was found that this portion was damaged by other causes than those excepted in the bills of lading. Plaintiffs therefore pray that the defendant be ordered to pay \$500 as damages and costs of this suit, and that they may have such further relief as the case may require.

The defendant demurs to the plaintiffs' petition and moves that it be dismissed with costs without any answer being required, inasmuch as the same is bad in law, in that it does not allege that the plaintiffs are shippers or consignees of the said 1,000 cases of glass or that, as consignees of such goods, the property in the same has passed to him by reason of such consignment. That it does not allege that the glass was shipped in good order and condition, and generally, in that the petition as it stands, the court could not give judgment for the plaintiffs

and the defendant further moves that proceedings herein be stayed meanwhile.

After discussion, Mr. Kirkwood arguing in support of his demurrer, the court decided to give judgment on Tuesday morning next.

Tuesday, 20th. September, 1881.

Judgment on the demurrer.

The petition in this case sets forth that in or about the month of May last the defendant being master of the British barque *Santon* received on board the said vessel then lying at Antwerp one thousand cases glassware, more or less, to be carried from Antwerp and to be delivered to the plaintiffs at Yokohama or Hiogo at the option of the plaintiffs, upon the terms of certain bills of lading signed by the defendant. The vessel sailed on her voyage and duly arrived at Yokohama whereupon the plaintiffs gave notice to defendants that they desired the said glassware to be carried to Hiogo and there landed by the defendant.

The defendant without the authority, and against the desire of the plaintiffs, caused the said glassware or a portion thereof to be transhipped at the port of Yokohama on board a vessel called the *Annie* and to be therein conveyed to Hiogo. The glassware so transhipped as aforesaid, arrived at Hiogo in a damaged condition and the said damage was not occasioned by any of the perils or causes in the bill of lading excepted. Plaintiffs claim the sum of \$500 as damages.

The petition was filed on the 13th. September and on the following day the 14th. a demurrer was filed by the defendant who moves that the petition be dismissed with costs without any answer being required.

The demurrer is to the whole petition and is on the following grounds. That the petition does not allege that the plaintiff is shipper or consignor of 1,000 cases of glass, or that as consignee of such goods the property in the same has passed to him by reason of such consignment. It does not allege that the said cases of glass were shipped in good order and condition, and generally that on the petition as it stands judgment could not be given for plaintiffs.

The demurrer was argued before me on the 16th. inst. when the learned counsel for the defendant cited the statute 18 and 19 Victoria C. 111 Sec. 1, the cases of *Fox vs. Nott* 30 L. J. Ex. 262 (more particularly the decision of Martin B. therein) "*La Fighi Maggiore*" 2 L. R. ad. 186, the case of *Malcolm Willcox & Co. vs. H. W. H. Morgan*, master of the *Oathaya* heard before the late Mr. Judge Goodwin in H. B. M.'s Provincial Court, Kanagawa, on the 26th. January, 1876, and in addition to these cases has referred me to Maud and Pollock (*Merchant Shipping*) p. 266. The contention for the defendant is that apart from the alleged defects in the petition the property in goods cannot pass by mere consignment or by indorsement of the bill of lading and there being nothing to show the plaintiffs have a property in the goods either by consignment or by endorsement they have no right to sue. As against the demurrer and in support of the petition the learned counsel for the plaintiffs contends that the bill of lading is sufficiently noted in the petition, that there is no authority for requiring a bill of lading to be set out at length, that the particular bill of lading in this case will show that the glass was shipped in good order and condition and that even supposing the goods were shipped in bad order and condition it is open to the plaintiffs to prove that the glass

arrived in a worse condition than when shipped, and that it has never been necessary for a consignee or indorsee of a bill of lading to allege that the property of which the bill of lading is the symbol has actually vested in such consignee or indorsee. I am referred to "*Smith's Mercantile Law*" page 299 to "*Leake on contracts*" page 1,195, "*Brown on carriers*" p. 493 and the learned counsel cites the well known case of *Lickbarrow vs. Mason*. This last mentioned case I believe only decided that the unpaid vendor may in case of the vendee's insolvency stop the goods sold *in transitu* and that the right to stop *in transitu* may be defeated by negotiating the bill of lading with a *bona fide* indorsee.

I have carefully gone through the cases cited and the references made on both sides and further for my own guidance have perused two important cases, those of *Newsome vs. Thornton* 6 E. R. 17, and *Pease vs. Gloahec* (the *Marie Joseph*) 1 L. R. P. O. Appeal cases 219 which throw considerable light on the question of property in goods passing by consignment or indorsement. In the case of *Malcolm Willcox & Co. vs. H. W. H. Morgan*, that of *Fox vs. Nott* was successfully relied upon and a non-suit directed. The opinion of Martin B. in *Fox vs. Nott* was that whereas the property in goods might it did not in every case necessarily pass by indorsement of a bill of lading, and the four judges before whom that case was heard concurred in the opinion that the statute 18 and 19 Vic. C. 111 did not apply to the particular case before them, which it will be remembered was a declaration for freight, the defendant denying liability on the grounds that he was acting as agent for one Edwards the actual shipper to whom he had endorsed the bill of lading who again had indorsed the bill of lading over to the plaintiffs. In my opinion all that *Fox vs. Nott* decided was that notwithstanding any number of indorsements over, the original liability of the shipper for freight to the carriers on a contract between them had never been extinguished.

It is true that I am not in the case before me called upon for a decision on a point which has been the subject of previous litigation, but cases cited as well as my own researches have induced me to dwell somewhat upon the question of whether it is essential to prove property in goods that have come into the hands of a consignee or indorsee before the right to sue can accrue, or in other words does the mere fact alone of consignment or indorsement give to the consignee in the one case and indorsee on the other, the right to sue for damage to goods represented by the bill of lading. Where the consignee is the factor of the consignor his right to sue cannot I think be questioned, but where the consignee alleges that he has neither property in the goods nor is in the position of factor to the consignor I can understand doubts arising as to whether such consignee has a right to sue, and I can only await such a case arising before giving a decision that may be in harmony with or opposed to that which has been held to guide the court in a previous case, namely that of *Malcolm Willcox & Co. vs. the master of the Oathaya*. I gather from the opinions laid down in the cases above cited that the judges have pronounced more strongly against the right to sue as accruing from mere indorsement of a bill of lading than from mere consignment. That in the majority of cases where the question turns upon the fact of the consignment the right to sue in re-



spect of damage will be given to the consignee and that it will not be necessary to prove ownership in the property. Where indorsement of the bill of lading is the sole point relied on as giving the right to sue it may possibly be required of the holder to prove that the property represented by the bill of lading is actually vested in him before recognizing his right to take action. The cases cited unfortunately as regards the particular point in dispute dwell rather upon the right of stoppage *in transitu* which exists until the goods although unpaid for, are transferred by the vendee to a third party whose *bona fides* is not disputed, who is without notice of the fact that the goods are not paid for, and who himself has given good value. The main point as to whether the property in goods passes merely by consignment or indorsement is still left doubtful.

To pass to the particular case before me, it is impossible to gather from the petition as it stands in what position the plaintiffs are. They may be the actual owners of the glass in question, the consignor merely acting as their agents, they may be consignees simply without any interest whatever in the goods, they may be holders of an indorsed bill of lading and such indorsement may or may not give them a property in the good in question. The petition merely says that the glass is to be delivered to the plaintiffs upon the terms of certain bills of lading, and although I do not know of any authority that requires a bill of lading to be set forth in a petition I think a defendant may fairly claim to know in a case where a plaintiff is suing on a bill of lading in what position such plaintiff stands, whether as owner, consignee, factor, or indorsee of the bill of lading for value or otherwise as the case may be.

In this case, instead of filing a demurrer the better course in my opinion for the defendant to have taken, would have been to have moved the court to order the plaintiffs to amend their petition, and it would have been in the power of the court to have ordered the plaintiffs to amend their petition in such manner as would better enable the defendant to understand the nature and particulars of the claim set up against him. I therefore overrule the demurrer but make no order as to costs. I order further that an answer be filed within twenty-four hours.

(Signed) RUSSELL B. ROBERTSON,  
Acting Judge.

Mr. Kirkwood after the above judgment had been read said that before he would file an answer Mr. Lowder must deposit the costs.

Mr. Lowder said the costs would be deposited if the case was gone on with, but until the defendant had been summoned he would not do so. After discussion on the amendment of the petition and the depositing of the costs the court repeated the order that the petition should be amended and the answer put in within twenty four hours.

A. CLARKE vs. A. JAFFRAY.

Mr. Kirkwood appeared for the defendant. The plaintiff applied for re-hearing of the case in which he was the plaintiff, and Jaffray the defendant, heard before Judge Rennie on the 14th. July last, when he petitioned the court to order defendant to remove certain Japanese houses on lot 123. The defendant denied having let the said property to Japanese, and judgment was

given in his favour. Since the said hearing very important evidence has come to plaintiff's knowledge and he therefore prays for a rehearing.

Mr. Kirkwood asked the court to dismiss the application on the ground that the petition was not sufficient, inasmuch as the names of witnesses who could give evidence which had any important bearing on the case were not given, and the court therefore could not decide whether the evidence was of sufficient importance to necessitate a rehearing.

The defendant stated that since the hearing of the case he had information from the Kencho stating that the Japanese rented the ground in question from Mr. Jaffray, he had also seen Mr. Anderson to whom the defendant alleged he let the ground or part of it, and he (Mr. Anderson) denied paying any rent for the said ground.

Mr. Kirkwood asked why the plaintiff had not procured this evidence at the original trial.

Plaintiff replied he had not known until the case came on for hearing that the defendant intended to plead in defence that the Japanese occupying the ground were simply servants. He had gone to the Kencho before the hearing.

Mr. Kirkwood suggested that the plaintiff should be ordered to prepare proper affidavits which should be placed before the court to decide whether the new evidence was sufficient to call for a rehearing of the case. Mr. Kirkwood claimed his fees for this attendance which the court granted.

His Honour after consideration gave an order to plaintiff to file the affidavits of Messrs. Anderson and Jansen and statements from the Japanese within seven days.

## H I O G O.

(Hiogo News.)

In the *Japan Gazette* we noticed some time since a translation of a letter on the currency which had been addressed by a foreigner to the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun*. It is, we think, rather unusual for such a course to be adopted, although certainly there exists no reason against it, and in the case of the *Nichi Nichi*'s foreign correspondent his communication was evoked by the comments of that paper upon a letter written by the same gentleman to the *Economist*. Not in this particular behind the leading journal in Japan, the *Kobe Shimpō* can also boast of a foreign contributor to its correspondence columns, but whether the individual himself has very much to congratulate himself upon in the matter we will confidently leave to the sound judgment of our readers.

"A German gentleman, residing in this port," says our worthy vernacular contemporary, "writes to us stating that, under the treaty, foreigners have no claim to the ground lying to the west of the Custom House, nor to the wharf, the sea-wall in front of the Bund, or the foreshore. The municipal police have no right to interfere with Japanese walking or bathing, unless specially authorised by the native authorities. Is the governor afraid to resist these aggressions of foreigners? I think not, but he pays no attention to the tyranny which foreigners, solely because their manners and customs are different, exercise over natives. A few foreign residents deprive the Japanese of their liberties, which I consider not only a disgrace to the native people, but to their Government also. I regret exceedingly the timidity of the natives, which causes them to

tacitly consent to these matters. They should insist upon the treaties being strictly observed, and prohibit foreigners from exercising any privileges not granted by those compacts."

We presume this precious epistle of the "German gentleman" was not written with the object of currying favour with the Japanese for business purposes, because his name is withheld. It is only then left us to conjecture, from the reference to the municipal police, that the enormities of the Council consist in preventing naked men and women disporting themselves in front of the Bund. Supposing this be so, the "German gentleman" may perhaps be surprised to learn that the Council were merely assisting the native authorities to enforce Japanese law. Both in Yokohama and Kobe natives are strictly forbidden to bathe during the day in front of the Settlements, and the instructions of the municipal police were simply to hand over offenders against this regulation to the constables on duty at the Custom House. So it would appear that the virtuous indignation of the *Shimpō*'s correspondent was out of place, for the simple reason that the tyranny, &c., which excited his wrath had no existence save in his own too fertile imagination.

Some eighteen months ago Mr. Hermann Friebe announced to the amused public of Yokohama that he shook off his allegiance to Kaiser Wilhelm, and abandoned further connection with an unappreciative fatherland, in order to glide—to quote Mr. Toots—down into the silent tomb as a Japanese subject in the peaceful manner so inexpressibly dear to a man of his æsthetic and artistic nature.

It did not publicly transpire whether or not Mr. Von Eisendecker remonstrated against Mr. Friebe carrying out his avowed intention, and thus inflicting a serious injury upon the future prospects of the German Empire, but, if rumour says truly, the would-be Germanic-Japanese subsided into his original obscurity, and devoted his attention to the extremely æsthetic and artistic occupation of manufacturing mermaids, unicorns, and other heraldic monstrosities for the American market.

Presumably Mr. Barnum has wearied of stuffed monkey skins plastered with fish scales, because we notice by the *Choya Shinbun* that the manufacturer has again sought publicity in print, this time in the native journal named.

Mr. Friebe, working on the same lines as the other "German gentleman" we referred to yesterday (Sept. 15th), exclaims against the tyranny displayed by foreigners in their dealings with Japanese. Foreign Ministers, too, fall under the weighty lash of the monkey staffer's displeasure; and as to Consuls, well, words are altogether inadequate to express the deep-rooted aversion in which the *Choya*'s foreign correspondent holds them. This hatred of Consuls is, indeed, about the single idea in the whole epistle for which we can account. On more than one occasion Mr. Friebe has found the presence of a Consul armed with full power to restrain and punish drunken rowdysim personally disagreeable—hence his hatred.

But is it not surprising that presumably respectable native papers should allow these renegades to abuse Foreign Ministers and Consuls with the view of exciting the passions of ignorant, uneducated people? The editor of the *Choya* must have known Friebe's charges are a tissue of lying absurdities, and it says little for the editor's discretion, or desire to furnish his readers with reliable information

that he disgraced his columns with such a farrao of nonsense. We accord Mr. Friebe every disposition to do harm, but coming from him, abuse is more welcome than praise.

#### LOSS OF THE "TAIHEI MARU."

News arrived here yesterday afternoon (14 Sept.) that the Mitsu Bishi Company's barque *Taihei-maru* (formerly *Shooyleen*) was ashore off Tomaga-shima in Idsumi Straits. The *Chitose-maru* left about three o'clock for the scene of the disaster, in order to render what assistance was possible to the stranded vessel, but we regret to say the *Taihei* was found a perfect wreck, having parted from her anchors and drifted ashore, when two or three of the crew were drowned, trying to reach the land, which the remainder succeeded in doing safely. This is the only accident reported so far, although we fear that others must have occurred, as there seems every probability a typhoon passed along the coast in our vicinity on the 13th. A falling barometer throughout the day plainly indicated some such disturbance, and at seven p.m. the wind backed round from north-east to north-north-east, the barometer reading 29.51. The glass then fell rapidly until shortly after eleven p.m., when it stood at 29.09, this being the lowest reading. The wind, which was blowing in violent squalls accompanied by heavy rain, was at that time northerly. From then the squalls decreased in strength, the wind continued to back round to the north-west, and the barometer rose steadily; thus indicating that all danger of a typhoon which would affect Kobe had passed away,

The barque *Taihei-maru* belonging to the Mitsu Bishi Company left Nagasaki for Kobe coal laden on the 9th instant, and had strong head winds most of the passage until she arrived off Cape Muroto, when a strong easterly gale set in, which lasted twenty-four hours. From thence up the Kii Channel the weather was very bad, heavy rain, squalls, and every appearance of a gale. On the 13th, at half-past eleven a.m., the vessel passed through the western channel of the Idsumi Straits, with a strong east-north-east wind blowing, and hauled up towards Kusunoki point with all sail set. At this time the *Kanagawa-maru* and some other vessels were in sight. Off Kusunoki the *Taihei* was put about, and several tacks made subsequently, as Captain Black was anxious to get into port before dark, seeing the barometer was falling and every probability of bad weather. The wind then became very variable, and the ship was continually breaking off her course, which at the time was towards Wada Point. Under these circumstances Captain Black came to the conclusion that it would be impossible to fetch Kobe before dark, and he therefore resolved to seek an anchorage elsewhere, in order to ride out the typhoon which the barometer now shewed to be imminent. By this time the current was setting from the northward, Wada was about 9 miles off, and therefore the vessel's course was directed to the eastern coast of the bay. At six o'clock p.m. Captain Black anchored two miles from the shore, about half a mile to the north of Taga, in 15 fathoms of water, and let go the best bower, veering out 75 fathoms of chain. The sails were then furled and afterwards 15 fathoms more were veered out on the same cable. At seven o'clock it came on to blow a perfect hurricane, accompanied with blinding rain-squalls. The

second anchor was let go, and veered out to thirty fathoms. By eight o'clock the full force of the typhoon struck the vessel, and Captain Black veered out to 120 fathoms on the port anchor, and 90 on the starboard. Springs were also put on the cables to ease the windlass, and made fast to the foremast. The vessel at this time appeared perfectly safe, and was riding beautifully. Captain Black now left the deck to look at the barometer, and just as he returned the second mate called out that he noticed something peculiar, and the Captain then realized that the vessel was either dragging, or had parted from, her anchors, and was fast going ashore. He at first intended to cut away the masts, but as the vessel had no list, and the lives of all on board would have been endangered, the idea was abandoned. The only thing left then was to wait the inevitable result; a few moments of intense anxiety passed, and the *Taihei* struck on the reef which runs out from the rocky point north of Taga. The shock was tremendous, and after being raised and flung down violently on the rocks by the sea, which was running mountains high, the ill-fated vessel was noticed to part abaft the main-mast. The passengers and crew—about forty souls in all—were clinging to the mizzen rigging, and managed with difficulty to reach the fore channels, as the fore-mast had by this time gone overboard. Here they remained exposed to the full violence of the rain, wind and waves until daylight, when the weather moderating, some fishing boats put off and rescued the survivors from their perilous position, for we regret to say one midshipman and one sailor were found to be missing.

Owing to the after part of the vessel being entirely destroyed, the officers and passengers lost everything they had on board, and landed almost naked; the crew, however, were better off, as the fore part of the vessel remained intact, and they got their things out safely after the weather grew calm. Captain Black, who has courteously furnished us with the foregoing particulars of this unfortunate affair, states that the position of the wreck is very peculiar. The forepart of the vessel remains intact, firmly imbedded in the rocks, and a long plank would enable any one to walk from the shore to the wreck. The afterpart, however, hung from the reef in deep water, which accounts for the vessel parting where she did.

Several very narrow escapes occurred among the crew, who persisted in repeated attempts to swim ashore, although Captain Black urged them to remain by the vessel, as affording the best chance. One man—the boatswain—rose from his berth where he had been lying ill, plunged in terror into the boiling surf, got washed round the vessel, and was flung on board by a friendly wave; to this he owed his life.

Considering the violence of the storm, and the nature of the shore on which the vessel was cast, it was only by an almost miraculous interposition of Providence that a single soul was saved.

The Koreans who were recently in Japan arrived at Fusan on the 27th of last month, and were entertained at the Japanese consulate by Mr. Kondo. They left for Toraifu on the following day. The Korean official who studied the working of the Nagasaki Custom House has also returned home, and it is therefore thought that a change will shortly be made in the Korean Customs' service.—*Biogo News Translation.*

A PARAGRAPH in the *Japan Mail* of 21st. inst. is calculated to convey an erroneous impression of the standard by which Japanese commercial integrity is measured, and at the same time injure the deserved reputation of the Chinese. The *Mail* says,—“The Japanese may not know, but we can tell them distinctly, that their commercial reputation is infinitely lower in this settlement than even that of the Chinese.” If the writer of that paragraph had had but a few years experience of commerce here and in China he would not have fallen into the error of assumption that Chinese commercial reputation is at a low ebb, the very contrary being the fact: and in justice to a large number of respectable men who have no month-piece of their own in which to refute the calumny, carelessly made no doubt, but not the less a libel on a class, we take unqualified exception to our contemporary's remark. Any merchant of experience in China and Japan will bear ample testimony to the good faith evinced by Chinese merchants in all their transactions with foreigners. The inviolability of a Chinaman's word is almost a proverb in places like Shanghai; where it is held equal in value to his bond. The Chinese merchant fears no court of law in the conduct of his business; his only desire and care is to act in such manner as to secure the approval and support of his Guild. This chamber of brother merchants investigates every complaint made against one of its body with an impartiality and evident intent to do justice which show how valuable commercial tribunals may become when the moving powers are integrity and honesty of purpose.

With regard to Chinese merchants in Japan, the charge is singularly unjust, for they are a highly respectable body of men. Acuteness and closeness of dealing are rather meritorious qualities than otherwise; and although there are, of course, black sheep in every flock (we have had our Overends, Gurneys, and directors and managers of the City of Glasgow Bank for instance) Chinese mercantile honour stands as high as that of any other nation without exception. If the *Mail* intended to refer to the lower order of petty traders, domestic servants, &c. only, its remark would have had some semblance of justice. A Chinese butler, or cook for instance, is not over scrupulous in his reckoning between his master and his tradesmen; but he possesses the original merit of permitting no one to rob but himself. In this respect he is vastly superior to the trusted Japanese servants of foreign employers, who not only rob for themselves but secure a portion for division among all the other servants, the momban, a miniature Machigaisho, demanding toll on every article that passes the gate, while the house boy and cook levy black mail on the monthly payments to the laundress, wood and charcoal dealers, and all others who supply the house with necessaries.

THE resolution of the merchants not to buy silk under the rules of the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho, was translated into Japanese and sent in to the office of the *Mai Nichi Shinbun* to be printed in Japanese character for circulation. The printers substituted the character for “unsatisfactory” in place of that for the equivalent of “arbitrary” in the resolution; and on the error being pointed out in proof refused to make the correction. The circulars were therefore printed, and the necessary correction subsequently made in each in red ink by hand.

## Shipping.

## ARRIVALS.

Sept. 12, Jap. str. *Shario-Maru*, Kilgour, 800 from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Sept. 13, Ger. brig *Carl*, Thomsen, 250, from Nagasaki, Aug. 15th, Coals, to E. Fischer & Co.  
 Sept. 13, Brit. str. *Belgie*, Davison, 2,627, from San Francisco, Mails and General, to O. & O. Co.  
 Sept. 13, Russ. schr. *North Star*, Bidderjelke, 38, from Hakodate, Fish, to Order.  
 Sept. 13, Jap. str. *Takasago-Maru*, Young, 1,230, from Hongkong via Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Sept. 14, Jap. str. *Tokai-Maru*, Hogg, 1,042, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Sept. 14, Jap. barq. *Sumanoura-Maru*, Spiegelthal, 925, from Nagasaki, Coals, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Sept. 15, Jap. str. *Kokonoye-Maru*, Dithlefsen, 1,133, from Hakodate, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Sept. 15, Jap. str. *Hiroshima-Maru*, Haswell, 1,870, from Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Sept. 16, Jap. str. *Chishima-Maru*, Walker, —, from Nemuro Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Sept. 16, Brit. str. *Malacca*, Weighell, 1,709, from Hongkong via Nagasaki, Mails and General, to P. & O. Co.  
 Sept. 16, Brit. str. *Tyne*, Hazard, 450, from Nagasaki, Coals, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Sept. 17, Brit. barq. *Alice Muir*, Henry, 483, from Newcastle, N.S.W., Aug. 5th, General, to Order.  
 Sept. 17, Am. ship *McLaurin*, Little, 1,489, from Cardiff, May 22nd, Coals, to P. M. S. S. Co.  
 Sept. 17, Am. ship *Lucile*, Ambrose Talbot, 1,394, from Cardiff, April 29th, Coals, to P. M. S. S. Co.  
 Sept. 17, Brit. barq. *Raven*, Veal, 353, from Bristol April 18th, Coals, to Order.  
 Sept. 17, Froh. corv. *Champlain*, Capt. Dubrot, 10 guns, 1,940 tons, 450 H.P., from Kobe.  
 Sept. 17, Jap. str. *Suminoye-Maru*, Frahm, 853, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Sept. 17, Jap. str. *Hiogo-Maru*, Thomas, 896, from Hakodate, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Sept. 17, Russ. cruiser *Asia*, Capt. Amasoff, 2,500 tons, 11 guns, 230 men, from Vladivostok.  
 Sept. 18, Froh. str. *Tanais*, Reynier, 1,735, from Hongkong, Mails and General, to M. M. Co.  
 Sept. 19, Ger. barq. *Occident*, Reuter, 248, from Takao, Sept. 2nd, 5,799 piculs Sugar, to Order.  
 Sept. 19, Jap. barquentine *Awajishima-Maru*, Creighton, 660, from Nagasaki, Coals, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Sept. 21, Brit. str. *Teucer*, Power, 1,325, from London via Hongkong, General, to Butterfield & Swire.  
 Sept. 21, Brit. str. *Strathleven*, Pearson, 1,588, from London via Shanghai, General, to Smith, Baker & Co.  
 Sept. 22, H. B. M. despatch-vessel *Vigilant*, Lieut.-Comd. Lindsay, 985 tons, 2-guns, 1,815 H.P., 50 men, from the North.  
 Sept. 23, Am. str. *City of Tokio*, Maury, 5,050, from Hongkong, Mails and General, to P. M. S. S. Co.  
 Sept. 24, Jap. str. *Akitushima-Maru*, Frahm, 1,146, from Hakodate, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Sept. 24, Jap. str. *Shario-Maru*, Davison, 800, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.

## DEPARTURES.

Sept. 10, Brit. str. *Oceanic*, Metcalfe, 3,700, for San Francisco, Mails and General, despatched by O. & O. Co.  
 Sept. 11, Froh. str. *Volga*, Guirand, 1,502, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by M. M. Co.  
 Sept. 12, Jap. str. *Kiushiu-Maru*, Thomas, 690, for Sendai, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Sept. 12, Jap. str. *Kumamoto-Maru*, Drummond, 1,240, for Nagasaki, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Sept. 12, Jap. str. *Suminoye-Maru*, Frahm, 853, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Sept. 12, Jap. str. *Toyoshima-Maru*, Hubbard, 598, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Sept. 14, Brit. str. *Stentor*, Kirkpatrick, 1,612, for London via Japan and China ports, General, despatched by Butterfield & Swire.  
 Sept. 14, Jap. str. *Sumida-Maru*, Hubenet, 896, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.

Sept. 14, Jap. str. *Genkai-Maru*, Conner, 1,917, for Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Sept. 15, Brit. str. *Belgie*, Davison, 2,627, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by O. & O. Co.  
 Sept. 15, Brit. ship *Forest King*, Holmes, 1,602, for San Francisco, Ballast, despatched by Smith, Baker & Co.  
 Sept. 15, Am. ship *Landseer*, Knowles, 1,418, for San Francisco, Ballast, despatched by J. E. Collyer & Co.  
 Sept. 16, Jap. str. *Shario-Maru*, Kilgour, 800, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Sept. 17, Jap. str. *Takasago-Maru*, Young, 1,230, for Hongkong via Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Sept. 17, Jap. str. *Kokonoye-Maru*, Dithlefsen, 1,133, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Sept. 17, Jap. str. *Tokai-Maru*, Hogg, 1,043, for Yokosuka, for Repairs, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Sept. 20, Brit. str. *Tyne*, Hazard, 450, for Nagasaki, Ballast, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Sept. 20, Jap. str. *Wakanoura-Maru*, Christensen, 1,300, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Sept. 20, Brit. barq. *Santon*, Rogers, 520, for Portland, Ballast, despatched by A. Reimers & Co.  
 Sept. 21, Jap. str. *Chishima-Maru*, Walker, —, for Neburo, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Sept. 21, Jap. str. *Hiroshima-Maru*, Haswell, 1,870, for Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Sept. 22, Brit. str. *Malacca*, Weighell, 1,709, for Hongkong via Hiogo and Nagasaki, Mails and General, despatched by P. & O. Co.  
 Sept. 23, H. B. M. despatch-vessel *Vigilant*, Lieut.-Comd. Lindsay, 985 tons, 2-guns, 1,815 H.P., 50 men, for Yokosuka.  
 Sept. 23, Jap. str. *Suminoye-Maru*, Frahm, 853, for the West Coast via Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.

## PASSENGERS.

Per Brit. str. *Oceanic*, for San Francisco:—Mrs. Winship, Rev. W. S. Holt, wife and 3 children, Mr. and Mrs. H. Moore, Mr. F. H. Olmstead, Mrs. W. P. Mangum, Dr. C. L. Fisher, Mr. H. W. Livingston, wife and infant, Mrs. F. C. Spooner and 2 children, Mrs. Reid, Miss Grattan, Mr. J. D. Brown, Mr. H. N. Tilston, Mr. J. M. de Ugarte, wife and servant, Mr. Wong Change and wife in cabin; and 619 Chinese in steerage. For Liverpool:—Mr. W. Gordon and Mr. J. J. Keswick in cabin. For London:—Mr. D. H. Wisner and Mr. A. H. Groom in cabin. For New York:—Mrs. J. H. Wisner and 3 children in cabin; and 1 European in steerage.  
 Per Froh. str. *Volga*, for Hongkong:—H. E. Ch. de Groote, Belgian Minister, Messrs. A. Peyre, T. R. Green, R. Marshall, K. Itatsubuchi, K. Yamano Oncho, and Masatomo Naitu in cabin.  
 Per Jap. str. *Shario-Maru*, from Kobe:—80 Japanese in steerage.  
 Per Brit. str. *Belgie*, from San Francisco:—Lord Zouche, Lord and Lady Harris, Dr. E. Murphy, Prof. Young Hon San, Bishop Scott, Messrs. A. W. Dausforth, H. P. Wheeler, Edwin Steven, Y. R. Wong, M. Y. Shine, K. W. Laing, F. K. Tow, C. Y. Tong, R. C. Fang, C. Q. Yuen, I. M. Hackisuka, Lu Y. Tong, Luen S. Liam, Y. C. Wing, L. G. Liew, Y. C. Tong, P. L. Fong, N. P. Chow, H. Tufnell, W. H. Tong, W. C. Tong, F. C. Luke, H. Y. Woo, C. K. Chow, S. S. Chu, and L. C. Proan in cabin; and 1 Japanese in steerage. For Hongkong: 328 Chinese in steerage.  
 Per Jap. str. *Takasago-Maru*, from Hongkong via Kobe:—Miss F. E. Thompson, Mr. Keymeulen and 1 Japanese in cabin; 1 European, 2 Chinese and 110 Japanese in steerage.  
 Per Jap. str. *Genkai-Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Lord and Lady Harris, Lord Zouche, Bishop Scott, Major Bridgeford, Paymaster Whitehouse, Mrs. B. O. Scott, Mrs. Arthur, Miss Duncan, Miss Parmelee, Dr. Terrill, Count Erloeh, Count Bulow, Miss Jessup, Messrs. F. Krebs, A. W. Danforth, Carl Stanger, Ph. Wolff, Halent, E. Stephens, W. C. Tong, Y. Leun, F. Tow, N. Tong, W. Tong, L. G. Lun, K. Tung, C. Chow, Y. Tong, Y. Wong, G. S. Chu, B. J. S. Brinkworth, J. H. Curtis, H. Tufnell, D. D. Allen, N. Chow, Y. C. Wong, P. Tong, H. Woo, C. Long, C. Yuen, R. Laing, L. C. Revan, M. Y. Stein, F. C. Luke and Professor Yung Hou Sam and 2 Japanese in cabin.  
 Per Jap. str. *Kokonoye-Maru*, from Hakodate:—Rev. T. and Mrs. Tyng, child and servant, Miss

Holmes, and 10 Japanese in cabin; 101 Japanese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Hiroshima-Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Mr. Russell Robertson, Lieut.-Col. Burlton, Rev. A. A. Bennett, Messrs. G. Gladstone, F. J. Twombly, C. Frensberg, R. Wainwright, A. F. dos Remedios, F. Hudson, S. Hudson, J. Holder, J. D. Ford, L. L. Fobes, G. Domoney, Miss Domoney, Mrs. Roberts and 15 Japanese in cabin; 2 Europeans, 8 Chinese and 240 Japanese in steerage.

Per Brit. str. *Malacca* from Hongkong via Nagasaki:—2 Chinese in steerage.

Per Froh. str. *Tanais*, from Hongkong:—Messrs. Walker and servant, Hotz and Porfiris in cabin. From Marseilles: Messrs. Santaponte, Kato, Yamamoto, Sakamoto, and Okoshira in cabin. From Naples: Messrs. Imberti, Velini, Gerosa, Vigano, Ottolini and Nakashima in cabin. From Saigon: Mr. Meugot and Mdlle. Yéné cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Takasago-Maru*, for Hongkong via Kobe:—Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Tyng and child, Messrs. E. Michel, I. Isaacs, E. C. Kirby and G. Ogima in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Hiogo-Maru*, from Hakodate:—Messrs. Ford and Griffin in cabin; and 100 Japanese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Suminoye-Maru*, from Kobe:—Mr. A. Von Knoblock in cabin; and 40 Japanese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Hiroshima-Maru*, for Shanghai:—Mrs. Von der Heyde and child, Dr. E. Murphy, Messrs. M. Cammell, J. E. Partington, and 2 Japanese in cabin; 4 Chinese in steerage. For Nagasaki: Messrs. J. Joulain, Barstow, and 2 Japanese in cabin; 2 foreigners and 25 Japanese in steerage. For Kobe: Miss M. Talcott, Miss E. Talcott, Bishop Williams, Dr. J. R. Browne, and 15 Japanese in cabin; and 246 Japanese in steerage.

Per Brit. str. *Malacca*, for Hongkong via Hiogo and Nagasaki:—Messrs. H. C. Dollmann, J. Hattori and Chew Tong in cabin; and 6 Chinese in steerage.

Per Am. str. *City of Tokio*, from Hongkong for San Francisco:—Mrs. M. Mitchell, Mrs. A. Kimmer, Messrs. H. Dickie and R. G. Humphreys in cabin; and 400 Chinese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Akitushima-Maru*, from Hakodate:—Mr. J. M. Dickson in cabin; and 200 Japanese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Shario-Maru* from Kobe:—Captain Fletcher in cabin; 70 Japanese in steerage.

## REPORTS.

The British steamer *Belgie* reports:—Sailed from San Francisco August 23rd at 3.40 p.m. Experienced moderate winds and fine weather throughout the voyage. Arrived at Yokohama Sept. 12th at 7.57 p.m. Time 19 days, 11 hours and 25 min.

The master of the German brig *Carl*, from Nagasaki, reports as follows:—Left Nagasaki Aug. 15; experienced light east wind with calm weather to Rook Island. Sept. 1st off Rook Island encountered a strong gale from the north, accompanied with very high sea from the eastward. We were compelled to lay to the eastward owing to the high swell. Sept. 2nd, at 10 a.m. Cape King bearing N.E. 22 miles off sighted two fishing boats on the lee bow; about two miles off wore ship and I thought they were in need of assistance as it was still blowing with hurricane force and a tremendously high sea running. At 12 noon the boats came close and requested me to take them on board which I at once did at great risk, every man having to be hauled over the stern by lines. This was accomplished by about 3 p.m.; clothing &c. was saved but the vessel's stern was considerably damaged. Twenty-nine souls in all were rescued. At 5 p.m. on the same day the breeze moderated and soon fell calm; this lasted three days, the current driving the ship to the E. N. E. at the rate of 120 miles a day. In the meantime we fell in which four boats in distress and rendered every assistance possible under the circumstances, considering I had a total of 39 souls on board with poor prospect of getting into port as the current was still drifting the vessel out of her course. I gave them rice and water and told them the course to the nearest land. As there was no wind at the time they sculled away in the direction I had indicated. We afterwards experienced slight S. W. winds and made every possible attempt to get to the westward out of the current. On the 7th inst. we sighted Inobuoye lighthouse bearing W.S.W. 10 miles off. We worked along the east with the wind still S.W. until the 9th. We experienced light N.E. wind. At 8 p.m. on the 9th. made Segami light bearing west 2 miles off, wind stiff from the north which increased to a fresh gale with thick, rainy weather. At 8 a.m. on the 10th, passed

Kanonsaki. As the wind was increasing and the weather becoming thicker I thought it advisable to anchor which we did at 5 a.m. off Yokoska; we again got under weigh at noon on the 12th. and arrived at the anchorage last evening. On the 2nd. inst. we were in company with the American ship *Lucille* from Cardiff to this port.

The Japanese steamer *Takasago-Maru* reports:—Left Kobe at 6 p.m. 10th inst. Experienced light winds with hazy weather to Sinomisaki; after rounding Oosima strong N.E. gale with heavy rain squalls, put back to Oosima at 6.20 a.m. 11th. inst. remained there till 7.20 a.m. 12th. weighed anchor and proceeded on our course with strong N.E. wind, high sea and thick rainy weather to port. Arrived at 2 p.m. 13th. inst.

The Japanese steamer *Kokonoye-Maru* reports:—Left Hakodate on Sunday, the 11th. inst. at 6 p.m. From Hakodate to Inobuoye fresh east wind with heavy swell from S.E.; 13th. midnight past Inobuoye set in strong increasing breeze from southward with heavy sea; at 4 a.m. 14th. blowing a heavy gale from the same quarter with very high sea and rain, wind gradually veering to S.W.; at 6 a.m. encountered tremendous squall with torrents of rain ship laid to on starboard tack, bar. lowest 29.72. At 9 a.m. barometer commenced rising and gale decreasing but still very high sea, at 11 a.m. sighted Cape Blanco bearing N.W.; from thence to port strong S.W. wind with high confused sea. Arrived at Yokohama at 7.20 a.m. 15th. inst.

The Japanese steamer *Hiroshima-Maru* reports:—Blowing typhoon in Kobe on Tuesday, 13th. inst. departure delayed in consequence till 4 a.m. on Wednesday, the 14th inst. Experienced the portion of a typhoon from 9 p.m. 13th. till 2 a.m. 14th inst., barometer lowest reading 29.90. Passed through Oosima saw two foreign built craft on the rocks and another totally dismantled; passed two large junks bottom up beside a large quantity of wreckage. Thence to port strong S.W. winds with high confused sea. Arrived at noon 15th. inst.

The British steamer *Tyne* reports:—Left Nagasaki at 11 p.m. on Sunday, the 11th. inst. Experienced calm and fine weather till noon on Monday, 12th., off Norma Island fresh S.E. breeze with unsettled appearance; 7 p.m. rounded Cape Satana; weather bar. 29.0, moderating and barometer rising, at midnight increased, the wind blowing strong from E.S.E. barometer falling rapidly at 4 a.m. increased gale, bar. 29.30 still falling. At 6.30 a.m. laid ship to with fearful cross sea, at 8 a.m. 14th. increased to a typhoon, wind veering to the N.E. with increasing high sea bar. 28.90 incessant downpour of rain the entire time, gale still increasing till 2 p.m. 14th. sea making clean breaches over the ship, (barometer rapidly falling, lowest 28.50) washing everything moveable off the decks damaging boats, fresh water all damaged cook-house completely gutted out and cooking utensils, gratings, harness coaks washed away. Iron beams and stanchions bent by the force of the seas, compass and stand and other things washed clean away. Midnight 14th. moderated and from thence to port light winds with high confused sea. Arrived at 4 a.m., 16th. inst.

The British steamer *Malacca* reports:—Left Hongkong on Wednesday, the 7th. inst. at noon. Experienced strong S.E. wind with falling barometer every indication of a typhoon to the S. and E. On Thursday 8th. off Swatow at 9 a.m. bar. 29.45 heavy confused sea picked up three crews of capsized fishing junks, 8 men in all, hence to Nagasaki fine weather. Left Nagasaki on Monday, the 12th. inst. at 8 p.m. Experienced fresh N.E. winds up to Akashi, Wednesday 13th. 11 p.m. 40 miles N.E. of Oosima picked up 5 men and 1 woman off a piece of wreck on which they had been 24 hours hence to port variable winds with heavy swell and confused sea. Arrived 8.30 p.m. 15th. inst.

The Japanese steamer *Chishima-Maru* reports:—Left Neburo 10.35 a.m. 12th. wind moderate S.E., cloudy weather with occasional rain showers; 14th. opens with thick cloudy weather, wind S. by E. and sea increasing barometer falling rapidly at 6 a.m. every appearance of a typhoon, hove ship to on starboard tack blowing strong gale from South at 7 a.m. barometer still falling and wind increasing with tremendous sea and thick weather from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. wind veering from S. to S.W. blowing furiously with mountainous sea, barometer lowest at 9 a.m. Barometer 29.28 not able to see a ship's length ahead 2 p.m., same day; barometer rising 29.48, wind moderating and sea increasing at 8 p.m., barometer 29.64 still rising weather moderating stood to the westward at midnight moderate S.W. wind with high confused sea, barometer 29.66, hence to

port with fine weather arrived at Yokohama on the 16th. September, at 4.15.

The Jap barquentine *Awajishima-Maru* reports:—Left Nagasaki on Sunday, the 11th inst. with a fresh breeze from N.E. and fine weather till the following day when they met a strong Easterly gale and very high S.E. sea; the wind continued blowing a strong gale till Tuesday at noon veering from S.E. to N.E. and N.W. every appearance of the close proximity of a typhoon passing to N.W. bar. 29.8; ship hove to for twenty hours moderating at W.N.W. with fine weather through Van Diemen straits, afterwards moderate southerly winds and occasional calms and smooth sea. 18th. passed through quantities of wreckage and picked up some planks and lumber and a piece of stem frame of a junk, likewise a grave block on which was painted a Japanese inscription. Arrived at noon 19th. Passage 8 days.

The American ship *Lucile*, reports:—Left Cardiff on April 29th. Had light winds to the trades; got the trade in 32° N. had a good run from there to 6° N., where we lost them. Had light southerly and N.W. winds from there to the equator 27 days out; had good S. trades which we lost in 28° south 58 days to the Meridian of the Cape in lat. 32° N. long. 17° W. Had a heavy gale from S.W. to W. which came in a sudden squall had strong S.W. winds and gales running down our eastern, were 89 days to Anger. We had light S.W. monsoons in the China sea; from the Bashee channel up had strong E. to N.E. winds with a heavy easterly sea. Got up to Vries island September 1st wind N.E. weather looking bad, and barometer low put the ship on the port tack to get an offing from the land got outside, and encountered a fearful gale; had a N.E. current which took us about 200 miles off the coast, when the gale abated had light winds from there till arrival Sept. 17th. 141 days passage.

The French steamer *Tanais* reports:—Left Hongkong at 6 p.m. 11th inst. Experienced variable winds with fine weather throughout. Passed steamer *Belgie* steering South. Arrived at 10 p.m. 17th. Passage 6 days and 4 hours.

The Japanese steamer *Hiogo-Maru*, reports:—Left Hakodate, 10.30 p.m., 16th. Experienced variable winds with hazy weather from Kinkasan to Inobuoye; thence to ports fresh S.S.W., with clear weather. Arrived at 4 a.m. 17th. inst.

The British barque *Alice Muir*, reports:—Left Newcastle, N.S.W. at 3 p.m., on Friday, the 5th. August. Experienced southerly and westerly winds with fine weather to lat. 22° 18' S. long. 161° 20' E., when the southeast trade winds set in fresh and lasted till the 24th. August. Lat. 4° 52' N. long. 162° 13' E. from thence to lat. 12° 38' N. long. 258° 27'. On 4th September light variable winds and calms prevailed with hot sultry weather and heavy rains, thunder and lightning when the N.E. trade winds set in with a fresh breeze which lasted till the 9th. September Lat. 23° 23' N. long. 144° 24' E. Light east and southeast breeze with hot weather lasted till the 14th. August lat. 29° 42' S. long. 139° 26' E. when the wind hauling to the southward with squall and rain barometer falling at 8 p.m. thick gloomy sky in the N.W. with heavy lightning and sea rising. Midnight hard squalls and rain from W.S.W. At 4 a.m. less wind and clear, but a very heavy cross sea from west to N.W. thence to arrival southerly and easterly breeze and fine weather. Arrived in Yokohama at 4 p.m. on the 17th instant. Passage 42 days.

We have been favored with the following report of the round trip of the S.S. *Suminose Maru*:—Left Yokohama 12th. September at 5 a.m.; had strong northerly winds with heavy squalls of wind and rain up to Oosima. Passed Oosima at 7 a.m. on the 13th.; wind shifted to S.E. and the barometer commenced falling. A heavy cross sea got up and the ship was rolling fearfully; at 3 p.m. passed Tomangai Sima. The wind now shifted to N.E. with violent squalls which soon increased to a fearful gale; the barometer was falling steadily. At 8 p.m. it was blowing a perfect typhoon, barometer 29.88, the wind sending rain and sea water with such force against us that it was impossible to see anything. At 11 p.m. the typhoon was at its highest and shortly after it abated, although the barometer still went down until at midnight it reached 29.25. The ship broached to several times although we were going at full speed and was each time thrown fairly on her beam ends; but we succeeded in getting her head to the wind again and so righted her. We had both anchors ready for use and by the ship broaching to; the port anchor swung against the bow cracking a plate and thereby

causing the ship to leak. At 2.30 let go both anchors in 8 fathoms of water and now, as the weather had cleared, we found we were about 2 miles due east of Kobe. I have to report the total wreck of the M. B. barque *Taihee Maru*, Capt. Black. Tomangai Sima; all hands saved except two Japanese sailors. We left Kobe at 6.20 p.m. 16th. Sept. Had light winds and favourable weather throughout. Off Oosima we fell in with wrecks of junks covering the sea for several miles. At 1 p.m. stopped to examine a junk and found her to be the *Kulo Maru* loaded with timber and left by the crew but found nothing to give any clue to whom or where she belonged. We arrived in Yokohama at 1.20 p.m. on the 18th. inst. bringing with us telegraphic despatches from Kobe.

The British barque *Raven*, reports:—Left Bristol April 18th. Had easterly winds till we got the S. E. trades in lat. 5° N. long. 25° west crossed the Equator May 12th. 25 days, out from thence to Meridian Cape of Good Hope which was passed in 39° S. lat. June 19th. 62 days out. Had N. W. to S. W. winds strong and squally from Meridian. Cape of Good Hope until July 11th. had in lat. 38 south hard gale with high sea from N. W. to north got the S. E. Trades July 20th. on 24° S. lat. well from the eastward sighted Princess Island July 30th. 102 days out thence to Anjer which was passed August 8th. had light contrary winds and currents. Passed through Banca Straits August 11th. 115 days out up the China sea and through Formosa Channel, to Van Diemens Straits had light variable W.S. to S.W. winds with fine weather. Passed through Van Diemens Straits on Sept. 9th. from this date to Sept. 13th., had squally and unsettled weather, winds varying from east to south, with high confused sea from S.E. on Sept. 13th. after a succession of hard squalls and rain accompanied with low barometer in latitude at noon 32.45 N. Cape Sima bearing N.E. 45 miles, wind freshened to a gale with falling barometer, and incessant rain. At 4 p.m. on same date barometer 29.60 every appearance of a typhoon approaching hove ship to under main topsail on starboard tack wind at this time S.S.E. at 8 p.m., barometer 29.35 hurricane bearing with great violence and confused sea with blinding rain, split main topeail; with great difficulty got some canvass in the mizen rigging which assisted in keeping the ship to the wind. St. Elmo lights on all the upper yards and masthead. At 9 p.m. typhoon blowing with full violence the vessel owing to the confused sea which at this time began to make from S.W. taking large quantities of water on board sweeping everything moveable off the poop, viz: binnacle's wheel gratings, cabin skylights and lee, bulwark's, etc., injuring several of the crew, 10 p.m. bar. at its lowest 29.10 ship lying perfectly steady with the sea rail under water by the force of the wind; vessel enveloped in sheets of spray. About this time lightning was seen in the S. W. which continued until 11 p.m. when Bar suddenly rose to 29.30 and at midnight the typhoon abated to a fresh gale with high sea and fine weather ship heading south wind W. S. W. Made Rock Island light September 16th and from thence to port light variable winds and fine weather arrived 8 p.m. 17th. passage 152 days. In Banco Straits in company with American steamer *McLaurin*.

The German barque *Occident* reports having left Takao Sept. 2nd. experienced south and S. E. winds with fine weather to Teypan afterwards a fresh gale, wind veering from N. E. to the S. W. with high confused sea to Leu Chew Islands which lasted two days shipping large quantities of water during which a pig was washed overboard; hence to port slight southerly winds and calms with fine weather arrived 9 a.m. 19th passage 17 days.

The British steamer *Teucer* reports:—Left Hongkong at 5.30 a.m. on Thursday, the 15th. inst. Experienced variable winds with smooth sea and fine weather to Omaiseki; thence to port strong N.E. wind with thick rainy weather. Arrived at 11 a.m. 21st. inst. Passage 6 days and 5 hours.

The British steamer *Strathleven* reports:—Left Shanghai at 6 p.m. 17th inst. Experienced E. to E.N.E. winds with fine weather to Rock Island; thence to port strong N.E. winds with thick rainy weather. Arrived at 9.0 p.m. 21st. inst. Passage 4 days and 17 hours.

The American steamer *City of Tokio* reports:—Sailed from Hongkong Sept. 16th at 3.10 p.m. to Turnabout had light S.W. and fine weather; thence to port moderate to fresh N.E. gales with squally thick weather. Arrived at Yokohama Sept. 23rd at 4.25 p.m.



YOKOHAMA, SEPTEMBER 9TH, 1881.

## IMPORTS.

**YARNS.**—The amount of business done has been less than that of last fortnight. Reported sales are 1,600 Bales of 16/24 at about previous quotations, principally for arrival within 30 and 60 days. 525 Bales of 28/32s. at a decline of 50 to 75 cents, nearly all for arrival. There have been no sales of 38-42. Sales of Doubled Yarns amount to 115 Bales 42s. at 39 to 40.25, and 3 Bales of 60s. at \$60. There have been no sales of 32s. Doubled. In Indian Yarns the sales have been 690 Bales 20s. at \$28.50 to \$29.45. 203 Bales 16s. at \$28.50 to \$29. 64 Bales 10s. at \$24.50, shewing a decline in Indians of 75 cents to \$1 per picul. Sales reported reach 8,200 Bales against 4,330 Bales for the preceding period; making a total for the year to date of 49,639 Bales—viz.: 28,206 Bales 16/24; 9,432 Bales 28/32; 1,437 Bales 38/42; 2,183 Bales doubled, and 7,379 Bales Indian qualities.

**SUGAR:—**Firm and advancing.

**KEROSENE:**—In consequence of the test being changed by the government, there is prospect of a better market.

133 lbs. = 1 Picul.

100 Dollars Mexican = 311 Silver Boas.

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## STAPLE EXPORTS.

**SILK.**—Our last report was dated 9th instant; during the subsequent week scarcely any transactions took place: dealers in the meantime abruptly gave notice that their new trade regulations would take effect from the 15th instant, causing some 700 native bales to be sent into foreign godowns by holders who were not sanguine as to the success of the new inspecting system: prices during this time gave way slightly. Since the 15th a stronger demand has sprung up for Europe, but all has been in a muddle. Some few foreign firms consented to purchase under the new trade regulations and inspect at the native godowns established for that purpose, but considerable dissatisfaction has been the result.

Meetings have been held by foreign buyers on the subject, and the latest phase is that nearly all foreign buyers have resolved not to purchase silk until the brokers modify their newly imposed system of purchase and inspection.

It will be readily understood that all this has disorganised business, nevertheless settlements appear as about 1,200 bales, mostly for the Continent. For America little has been done. Stock holds its own and is estimated at fully 4,000 bales. Where business has been done, prices have hardened since the 15th, and as far as can be ascertained close at quotations.

As we make up this report business is at a dead lock and the feeling between buyers and sellers is far from friendly.

TOTAL EXPORT FROM 1ST JULY TO DATE.										1880-81.	1881-82
London	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	801 Bales.	806 Bales.
France and Italy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	972 "	1,596 "
United States	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,414 "	806 "
										3,187 Bales.	3,208 Bales.

**TEA.**—But little change is to be reported in this staple; since our last issue a steady business has been done, settlements amounting in all to piculs 7,200. Prices, though fluctuating during the interval, close much as last quoted.

Supplies from the country come in just as the market requires them and it is almost impossible to obtain any truthful information as to stocks of tea in first hands up country.

The *S. S. Teucer*, *Galley of Lorne*, *Loudoun Castle* and *Strathleven*, are on the berth for New York, and the two former will probably have despatch from this port via Kobe and China ports to New York prior to close of current month. Rate of freight £3 to £3 5s. per ton of 40 cubic feet.

DESCRIPTION.	PRICES PER PICUL.	REMARKS.
<b>SILK:—</b>		
Mayebashi; 1½ @ 2 Hanks ... ..	\$ 680 to 640 per picul.	} Holders generally not willing to sell. Market unsettled by action of the Bango Kiioto Niadzukarisho.
„ 2 „ ... ..	610 to 625 „	
„ 2½ „ ... ..	590 to 600 „	
„ 3 and lower ... ..	530 to 570 „	
Kakedas; Good ... ..	650 to 670 „	
Filatures; Best ... ..	740 to 750 „	
„ Good ... ..	710 to 730 „	
Hamatski; Medium ... ..	550 to — „	
Sendai and Oshiu ... ..	— to — „	
<b>TEA:—</b>		
Common... ..	\$10.00 and under.	} Quotations unaltered.
Good Common ... ..	\$12.00 to \$14.00	
Medium ... ..	\$16.00 to \$19.00	
Good Medium ... ..	\$20.00 to \$24.00	
Fine ... ..	\$25.00 to \$29.00	
Finest ... ..	\$31.00 to \$34.00	
Choice ... ..	\$36.00 and upwards.	

## EXCHANGE.

Business during the fortnight has almost been at a standstill. Purchases of silk have been on a very limited scale and imports likewise. Paper currency, in consequence of a scarcity of dollars, has declined considerably. Silver is quoted 51 ¼ per Oz.

ON LONDON.—Bank .....4 months' sight.....8s. 9½d.	ON HONGKONG.—Bank.....Sight.....½ % disc.
" " do. ....Sight .....8s. 8½d.	" " Private .....10 days' sight.....½ " "
" " Credits .....6 months' sight.....8s. 9½d.	" SAN FRANCISCO.—Bank ...Sight.....89½
" " do. ....4 do. ....8s. 9½d.	" " Private .....30 days' sight.....90½
" PARIS.—Bank. ....Sight .....4.68	" NEW YORK.—Bank .....Sight.....89½
" " Credits .....6 months' sight.....4.83	" " Private .....30 days' sight.....90½
" SHANGHAI.—Bank .....Sight.....72½	
" " Private .....10 days' sight .....73½	

Paper currency, 174 per \$100.

# THE JAPAN GAZETTE,

A FORTNIGHTLY SUMMARY OF THE

## POLITICAL, COMMERCIAL, LITERARY, AND SOCIAL EVENTS OF JAPAN.

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### BIRTHS.

On Saturday, the 1st Oct., at No. 35, Club Street, the wife of Captain J. STREEDMAN, of the M. B. M. S. S. Co.'s steamer *Tsuruga-Maru*, of a son.

On the 5th Oct., the wife of JOHN WALTER, of a son.

### DEATHS.

At Shanghai, on the 21st Sept., JOSEPH HROGINOTHAM, late of Yokohama, aged 39 years.

On the evening of the 4th Oct., at the Yokohama General Hospital, JOAQUIM D'ALMEIDA, formerly of Singapore: aged 25 years.

### Summary.

OUR last issue was dated September 24th. for transmission per M.M.S.S. *Mensaleh*. The following mails have since been received:—

P.M.S. *City of Peking*, San Francisco, ...Sept. 6 arrived Sept. 25  
M.M.S. *Volga*, Marseilles, ...Aug. 21 " Oct. 2  
O. & O. S. *Belgie*, London, ..." 28 " " 8

And the following have been despatched:—

M.M.S. *Mensaleh*, Marseilles, ...Sept. 25  
P.M.S. *City of Tokio*, San Francisco, ..." 26  
P. & O. S. *Sunda*, London, ...Oct. 6

DURING the past fortnight the present block in the silk trade has been the one all absorbing topic of conversation, and has occupied a much larger share of our space than we usually care to devote to any single subject however interesting it may be. The attitude assumed by the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho stands without a parallel since the country was opened—twenty-six monopolists, to curb the rapacity of the greedy, grasping foreigner under the mask of patriotism, have aimed a serious blow at the export trade from which it will not soon recover. But if the Niadzukarisho play deep, the "invaders" can play deeper and this the "obstructives" will soon find to their cost. The utterances of the native press, all this while, would have been mischievous had they not been ridiculous. Foreign merchants gauge the blatant paragraphs of these wretched, because subsidized, tools at their true value which is—less than nothing. Samples of their vigorous writing will be found elsewhere.

SINCE our last issue this port has been honoured by the presence of the ships comprising the China squadron which has for sometime been cruising in Japanese waters. Vice Admiral Willes accompanied them in his flag ship the *Iron Duke*. All sorts of schemes were afloat to accord a hearty welcome to the gallant sons of Neptune but, judging from appearances, they chose what may be called the "better part." Dram shops apparently hoisted their flags in vain for, contrary to the usual rule on such occasions, festive A. Bs. and convivial marines were *rara aves* in our streets. On the other hand, the Gaiety Theatre which had been set apart for their accommodation, and where more wholesome entertainment was provided was largely patronised by the men of the fleet. At this place temperance meetings, amateur performances &c. were nightly held.

TELEGRAPHIC communication is daily becoming more and more a *sine quâ non* to merchants and men of business but the high rates charged have hitherto been a great barrier to its frequent adoption. An announcement recently made by Reuter's agent here has been received with much satisfac-

tion. From the 1st. inst. Reuter's Company placed their comprehensive codes at the disposal of the public for a consideration of thirty cents per code word used in addition to the ordinary telegraph rates. How great a boon this is cannot fail to be self evident.

A NATIONAL legislative assembly here in Japan, to use the language employed by patentees of new inventions is a "want long felt." At any rate it is what the people have long looked for in vain. If a statement made by one of our vernacular contemporaries may be relied on the popular desires are approaching consummation and a Japanese parliament will soon be an accomplished fact. To our thinking the rumour requires to be taken *cum grano salis*. The "Liberal party," as one of the native papers calls them, is not yet strong enough to carry its point.

THE Kaitakushi job still continues to excite and call forth expressions of strong disapproval from such sections of the people as are not afraid to speak their minds. Petitions to a fabulous amount are said to have been forwarded to the government against the swindle and strong hopes are entertained that the Mikado, on his return, will refuse to allow the monstrous "arrangement" to be carried into effect.

On the 6th. inst the flags at the several consulates were placed at half mast in consequence of the death of the Princess Katsurano-miya who was a near relative of the Mikado.

THE money order service between Japan and the United Kingdom which has been in abeyance for several years has at length been reestablished. A circular was issued by the Imperial Post Office on the 1st. inst., notifying that, on and after that date orders on Great Britain could be obtained for sums not exceeding £10 at the general post office in Tokio and at the post office Yokohama. The rates of commission are equivalent to those charged at home and receipts and payments are effected at current rates of exchange.

THE hot season is fairly over; we are now enjoying cool, delightful weather and the quantity of game in the provision market reminds one of the approach of winter and suggests the idea of getting one's guns and ammunition in readiness for sundry shooting expeditions. *Apropos* of that, those whose proclivities are sportive would be glad to be informed why the government make so great a difference between foreigners and natives in the amount charged for gun licenses. The latter only pay one yen for the privilege of bringing down game, whilst the former is mulcted in ten times that amount. Perhaps it is one of those things for which—as the late Lord Beaconsfield would have probably said—"there are high political considerations."

## Leading Articles.

### THE COMMERCE OF JAPAN.

NOTHING strikes the casual observer with so much force as the inconsistency of Japanese action in regard to native commerce. For some years past various schemes have been tried to make more profit out of the trifling quantity of exportable produce which forms the base of the nation's trade, but no effort apparently has been, or is being made to increase the production of exportable commodities, or if made, encouraged by either the intermediate broker—the person who stands between the eager foreign buyer and the equally eager Japanese seller—or by the government who, in defiance of the lessons of experience, and unanimous public opinion, cling obstinately to monopolies and a purely obstructive policy. If statistics are referred to it will be found that the mean annual value of exports from 1868-1880 inclusive, is \$21,600,000. Omitting 00,000 from the figures following, the export of 1868 was 20.5; of 1872, 24.3, including 3.1 of rice now not exported at all; of 1876, 27.7, caused by the abnormal prices of raw silk; of 1878, 26.3, including rice again 4.6; 1879, 27.3; and 1880, 27.6. The last two years include tea in quantity or value nearly 75 per cent. greater than the preceding years 1877 and 1878; the only article showing material increase. These figures are most discouraging. Thirteen years of progress have resulted in an increase of 34.6 per cent. in the nominal value of exports; the sum *per capita* for the last year being 79 cents only. If the production of the quantity of exports in 1868 taxed the full energies of the people, the small gradual increase would be explained as due merely to the natural increase of population; but that is not the case, for it is absurd to assume that Japan, with her large population of able-bodied men not one-half of whom are employed, can turn out nothing more than she does now. The real painful truth is, there is no stimulus, and production languishes. Japanese economists should look the matter fairly in the face, and, by comparing population and export in 1868 with the same in 1880, ascertain for themselves the progress really made. To stand still in this age of enterprise is to recede, and all that can be said in favour of Japanese trade is, that it is, to all intents and purposes, in a state of stagnation: of progress there is none.

We earnestly invite the attention of our Japanese readers to this deplorable condition of the nation's commerce. Mercantile committees have reported during late years large additions to surplus production; and chambers of commerce have congratulated each other upon this proof of progress. If their reports are true, where is the produce? Is the body of the people better supplied with necessaries than formerly? All evidences establish the opposite conclusion. Is the surplus exported? The customs returns say decidedly that it is not. Then where is the surplus? The cry of adverse trade and drain of specie is well nigh at an end, and perhaps even the most sceptical Japanese will admit that, so far as foreign merchants are concerned, nothing could be more unsatisfactory than for them to be compelled to reside here to buy gold and silver. Such trade must ever be one-sided and unprofitable. It is not

money foreign merchants require, but commodities; they are prepared to buy anything; and the reported large surplus crops of grain led to expectations that at least rice, which has been largely, and, we assume from the extent of the trade, profitably exported by the government, would be in the market in such quantities, and at such prices, as would lead up to an extensive demand for all time to come. Where is the surplus rice? Its great price prevents home consumption beyond the average; and this forces us to the conclusion that large quantities are stored. Rice or any other article, gold included, with which the markets are over-supplied, is useless to the holder. But the holder possesses the power to exchange it for money, or for the same thing, the goods he requires that money represents. If he neglects to do this he simply locks up his capital where it is not only useless to the world, but where it will gradually disappear in the ordinary course of destruction from decay and other natural causes. The argument applied to rice applies to all other commodities; and the irresistible conclusion is, that Japan either produces nothing, or locks up what she produces until it is destroyed.

The practice of late years has been for enthusiastic writers to stimulate Japan by the example of the United States. If we do the same in the matter of exports, some startling facts will appear. Thus, in 1868 the value of domestic exports from the United States was \$269.4; in 1880, 823.9; increase 206 per cent.; value of trade *per capita*, \$16.48.

Dissimilar in every other respect, there are still marked similarity and wide distinction in one section of the commercial policy of the United States and that of Japan. Both nations enjoy protective navigation laws which promise, in one case, to sweep the flag from the seas; and in the other, to prevent it from ever making its appearance there. With this the similarity ends and the distinction begins, for the United States permits any vessel to carry away cargo from any of her ports to foreign countries, which Japan does not do. None but Japanese-owned vessels may enter non-treaty ports; and as there are no Japanese-owned vessels there is no trade in those products which cannot bear the cost of intermediate transport from the producing district to a port whence shipment abroad may be made. Therefore the trade of Japan is necessarily confined to two or three valuable staples; the operations in which are again limited by the actions of a gang of monopolists. Herein lies the secret of the deplorable inaction which afflicts the Japanese people. Internal communication by road, rail, or canal, there is none; nor are any means existent to create it. External communication, safe, expeditious, and cheap, is denied. The reasons alleged for the close protection of the coast trade; that it would foster Japanese shipbuilding; that it would form a school for Japanese seamen to man future fleets; and other equally plausible pretexts for the continuance of the monopoly which drags the country down, have been examined, tested by results, and blown to atoms. Wooden ships are fast giving way before iron. The former will, in a few years, be obsolete for rapid transport. Japan has no iron. She must, therefore, either build vessels of wood, which the rest of the world is discarding, or buy iron ships abroad, thereby protecting the foreign ship-builder at the expense of her own trading classes. As a school for

Japanese seamen, a few coasting steamers officered almost solely by foreigners, and carrying, as sailors, a few Japanese deck hands, are wholly inadequate. For what good purpose then, is a Japanese prevented from chartering, for his own uses, the cheapest vessel he can obtain? In the consideration of this question it will be well to discard the specious arguments which lead up to the assertion of that phantom termed "Sovereign Rights": or at least to meet them with the assertion that the action by which Japan seeks to establish her sovereign rights is similar to that of a beggar who loudly asserts his independence of the people upon whose charity he lives. The "sovereign rights" of Japan have never been questioned. If her government persist in asserting them at the cost of the nation's prosperity the mistake is theirs. On them will the awful responsibility rest. What infringement of sovereign rights would treaty stipulations be providing for the employment of foreign vessels by Japanese subjects under conditions for the control of those vessels specially embodied in the convention, and enforceable as are the rest of the treaty conditions? Such concession would at all events be a sensible assertion of rights, to which too much importance is attached; the people would be provided with cheap conveyances in consequence; and if only a dozen ships are thus chartered in a year there will be a distinct gain to the nation of the value of twelve cargoes that must otherwise be wasted; and an equivalent stimulus will be given to labour. Benefit incalculable must follow reform of this character; and its not least valuable result will be that Japan will experience the truth of the axiom that they are best helped who help themselves.

Not one of our native contemporaries will touch this subject. They are in the habit of regarding such comments as we now make in the light of an insolent interference on the part of foreigners whom the subject does not concern: and they infinitely prefer wrangling over trifles and technicalities, to boldly attacking the root of the evil which shows its influence throughout this land in poverty, individual and national. The time has, however, arrived when the Japanese must be told plainly that foreigners are vitally interested in these questions. We look on with astonishment at the foolish freaks played alike by government and people. The former did not hesitate, on the eve of revision of the commercial treaties, to issue the kerosene notification, which if enforced would have dealt a serious blow at the commerce of a friendly power; yet the same government hesitates to interfere to stop the export of silk-eggs, a trade peculiarly disastrous to their own commerce, depriving the nation of the stimulus which forty millions of extra exports would offer, and benefiting a rival to a like extent. The people, on the other hand, organise combinations like the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho, as though to injure their most profitable trade as much as lies in their power. These tricks are being played daily, disgusting even the warmest and most indiscriminate friends of the nation; yet not one man is bold enough to cut at the root, and remove the obstacles to the true progress of the people.

Is it to go forth to the world that commerce in Japan is a delusion; and that the efforts of all are devoted to its diminution instead of its development? We ask because the question is being raised in Europe, and the facts before us suggest an unfavourable reply.—Sept. 24.



FREE COMMERCE VERSUS  
MONOPOLIES.

WHEN the combination, which has controlled for years the foreign trade of Japan, framed the articles of association of the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho, the members little thought how prejudicial to their personal interests and beneficial to the country at large the result of their action would be. "Pretending public good to serve their own," these gentlemen have gone a step too far, and aroused a spirit of resistance that cannot be pacified until most if not all the glaring abuses which check the extension of commerce have been removed.

Perhaps not the least objectionable enemy to commerce is the native press. That the press should be censured for boldly advocating the measures of its countrymen, would be unreasonable; nor should exception be taken to the strictures it chooses to make upon the actions of foreign resident merchants. In the ordinary course of events the misrepresentations of some of the vernacular papers might be permitted to pass; but a crisis has arisen in the commercial relations of foreigners and natives which has been seized upon by the *Choya Shinbun* as a pretext for a violent outburst of spleen, developing itself in a series of rude, and utterly false and unworthy charges against foreign merchants in particular, and foreign intercourse generally. Silence on our part, knowing that the *Choya* is read by a considerable number of people, might be open to damaging misconstruction; and we therefore propose, once for all, to explain to the *Choya*, and all other journals which have betrayed their trust, who the persons are whose interests they advocate with so much zeal.

The usage of this journal in discussing events of interest to native and foreigner alike, is to write in terms of courtesy, but in language intended to appeal to the judgment of men of reason. From this usage we must now in some measure deviate, and, in dealing with the conductors of the native press, make use of terms more suited to their comprehension: terms in which a spoiled and ill-mannered child should be rebuked and corrected.

A fitting text shall be the following abridged article from the *Choya Shinbun* of September 29th., the sense of the original being closely preserved:—

"From the commencement of foreign trade our merchants have been held in a state of abject submission to foreigners; and in no part of the country is the aggression of the latter more remarkable than in Yokohama. In many cases have these foreigners realised extraordinary profit by means of improper contracts arbitrarily enforced. Their success in this respect has been chiefly due to the advantages afforded them by their stronghold of extra-territoriality; but much is due to want of union among ourselves. Trade may be compared to a battle in which experience is the best general. Foreigners have had long experience; they have fought many battles in other countries; and they invaded our country certain of great and easy victory. To encounter such a foe; to put an end to his oppression, and prevent him from engrossing improper profit, our merchants must abandon these tactics which result merely in the acquisition of small profits on the spot, and unite for the purpose of securing remote but large benefits. By union alone can foreigners be compelled to yield to our demands.

The long suffering of our merchants

from the abuses of foreigners is due to our government too faithfully observing the imperfect treaties. Why should these conditions not be changed? Inexperienced Japanese deliver their produce at the houses of the cunning foreigner. There is therefore no cause for surprise that such transactions should afford ample opportunity for the display of foreign impropriety and arbitrariness. Knowing this our merchants founded the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho, and framed rules with the object of putting an end to existing abuses and recovering the right of equality in trade. All our countrymen who grieve over the miserable condition of foreign trade should assist this undertaking. It is this association that foreign merchants, ignoring the fact that the cause of its establishment was their own arbitrariness, seek to overturn on the worthless pretext of no preliminary consultation. They also lose sight of the fact that the establishment having no selfish object its promoters would gladly have consulted with foreigners prior to its formation, if the latter had ever shown any consideration for Japanese. The true reason of foreign opposition is that the association is strong enough to recover our lost commercial rights.

It is reported that certain foreigners have been offered silk by some Japanese who are desirous of evading the rules of the association. Such men are devoid of all sense of shame: foreigners may be justified in their efforts to retain their grasp upon their extraordinary profits; but what shall be said of the Japanese who help them?"

Thus the *Choya Shinbun*, which writes of "our merchants," "our people," and the recovery of "our lost commercial equality." Who and what are "our merchants?" The members of the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho, twenty-six in number, members also of that other equally pernicious institution, the Machigaisho, which they farm from the local government for an annual payment. This is the gang of monopolists who draw a cordon round the foreign settlement of Yokohama; who levy illegal imposts upon everything that passes in and out; who, to enforce their demands, call in the aid of the police, and thus involve the government in the levy of "black mail;" who exclude, at their sovereign will and pleasure, all Japanese desirous of doing a fair trade with foreigners without the intervention of one or more members of this gang; who profit on every article sold to and bought from foreign merchants, yet bear not one jot of trade risk themselves; who hamper and impede the growth of commerce in order that they may retain the whole of it in their hands, which could not be were it to grow larger; who openly set at defiance a most important clause in the treaties of commerce, that which provides for free commercial intercourse between foreigners and all classes of natives; who have exploited this trade for their personal benefit for so many years that they have come to regard their infamous monopoly as a vested right, which they flaunt in the faces of all men, including their own government; who are responsible for the stagnation of trade which is a standing reproach to the enterprise of the Japanese people. These are "our merchants" to whom the *Choya* alludes as being deprived of their commercial rights by the cunning and arbitrary foreigner. These people who form an insurmountable obstacle to all progress; who, to gratify their insatiable greed, are resolved to sacrifice the entire country sooner than forego one of their usurped powers, or a fraction of the illegitimate profits they extort

from Japanese and foreigner alike. These are "our merchants," whom the *Choya* and its confrères have undertaken to champion in their insolent defiance of the limited privileges granted by their own government to foreign powers; and in doing so to hold up the foreign merchant to execration and hatred as a monster with whom it is unsafe to have intercourse. It is a fact, which we defy the native press to dispute, that while this gang of monopolists illegally interferes to limit trade intercourse, the press assists their nefarious projects by the circulation of unblushing libels on foreigners and their commerce. It is also a fact, that the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho, the Machigaisho, and a section of the press, are the primary causes of the evils which afflict the nation and retard the development of its trade. These twenty-six men, the majority of whom spring from the lowest classes of society, form a controlling power superior to the only written law Japan possesses—the treaties of commerce: they dictate to all, reckless, so long as they can fill their own pockets, whether the rest of the people whom they look upon as their slaves continue in the abject poverty and ignorance from which they can only be lifted by foreign commerce. For these twenty-six does the native press prostitute its pages, betray the mass of its countrymen, and lower itself to the servile drudgery of a tool in the hands of men who have no object but their personal interests.

Not merely from the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho do foreigners appeal. Abuse has been heaped upon abuse, until amicable trade relations between foreigners and the twenty-six monopolists have become impossible. If business is to be continued, there must be radical reform; and the treaty stipulations carried out. Not to the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho do foreigners appeal. These monopolists are ignored. To the real producers and consumers, to the men of reason and education, have foreigners resolved to state their grievances. We are here, animated by the best desires to promote the object dear to all—an extended and prosperous commerce. For twenty years have we endeavoured to deal directly with you, and for a like period have we been thwarted by these twenty-six persons who claim to be your sole representatives. Whatever benefit has accrued from the small trade that has been done the country is none the better for it, for the whole has been absorbed by the twenty-six. It is for you to say whether this shall go on. The commercial treaties grant to you, equally with ourselves, the right of free intercourse, which these monopolists have no legal power whatever to interfere with. Their rules and regulations, the Machigaisho restrictions, all other obstacles to freedom of trade, you may treat with contempt and defiance. Deal with us directly, and form your judgments upon results and personal observation. Be no more led astray by the slanders of a venal press; but come forward and act for yourselves. On your judgment we are content to rest our case; but we will no longer submit to the insolent dictation of the twenty-six monopolists; nor will we recognise them in any way whatsoever. We appeal to the people to further their own commerce, to confer upon their country the inestimable blessings of trade, and to declare how much longer the twenty-six monopolists shall be permitted to usurp every advantage of foreign commercial intercourse.

These few words we commend to the

serious attention of the native press. The object of the twenty-six Japanese merchants is to make enormous profits out of a small trade, utterly indifferent to the consequences to the nation; and what is the result? A commerce so small that any one foreign house in Yokohama could conduct the whole of it with ease. The country is deprived of all stimulus to production. The government are plunged into inextricable financial difficulties. The people are angry and fretful, deploring the condition of their trade yet ignorant of the true causes of its depression. Abroad, the conviction is fast spreading that the progress claimed for Japan is a delusion. That her foreign trade, by which national progress can best be judged, is a mockery. That her claim to admission into the rank of powers influencing the well-being of the world has no foundation. And, finally, that a nation so favourably situated, and endowed with every facility for the promotion of commerce, is a social, political, and commercial failure. The country is injured, government credit at the lowest ebb, the people dissatisfied, the nation's reputation declining; all these wrongs are inflicted and borne in order that twenty-six monopolists may profit.

These unwelcome truths we earnestly commend to the native press; in the belief we should be sorry to wholly renounce that some spark of courage remains to animate an investigation into the merits of the respective claims of Foreign Commerce and the Twenty-Six Japanese Monopolists to popular admiration. —Oct. 1.

#### SIR E. J. REED'S POLICEMAN DISSECTED.

ENGLISH travellers no doubt consider themselves to be keen and intelligent observers of all they see and experience in foreign countries during their voluntary or enforced wanderings. This idea is calculated to lead many of them into the serious error of mistaking impressions for facts. Take a very common instance. A gentleman, or a lady and gentleman, pay a flying visit of a month or two's duration to China or Japan, "doing" all the places of interest which lie in their route by the aid of a guide book, or with the assistance of a native who may not be over exact on the score of truth, and whose main object is to levy as much "black mail" as he possibly can out of the distinguished, but perhaps rather verdant, tourists who swallow his romances as though they were gospel truth. The 'gulled' ones return home by an early mail steamer, write a book with all convenient or inconvenient speed, give it some high-sounding, sensational title which is likely to take amongst a confiding public and awake one morning to find themselves famous. The book may or may not "sell" as rapidly as the author or authors could wish, but there is not the slightest doubt that its readers are very considerably "sold," if they are green enough to imagine that correct and accurate information of a foreign country can be picked up in a month or two, or even in the same number of years. Many of this class of books, which have been rather too plentiful of late years, are no doubt published from pardonable motives of vanity, rather than from any actual intention to deceive on the part of the writers. But this excuse, unfortunately cannot be pleaded in defence of all of them, and most certainly not in the case of Sir E. J. REED's bulky volumes on Japan. The most casual reader cannot fail to perceive that they are both mischievous

and misleading—misleading from the very incomplete and unreliable information they contain on many points of interest; and mischievous from the unworthy objects the writer manifestly had in view. Those who will take the trouble to read between the lines will discover that his chief aims were to sneer at Sir HARRY PARKES, to applaud that "able officer of the Crown" Sir JOHN POPE HENNESSY whom the British government sent to Hongkong, but whom the inhabitants of that colony, who have the misfortune to be English and not Chinese would gladly "send farther to fare worse," and to heap the most fulsome, sickening flattery upon Japanese officials and institutions. Mr. OKUMA is a "Japanese Gladstone" and the Japanese police are—well as we are going to take his remarks on those brave guardians of the peace as the text of our discourse we will take the trouble to transcribe them:—

"Eighteen thousand picked men have been drilled into a body which is now everywhere remarkable throughout Japan—remarkable for the good appearance (in European costume) of the men, their orderly demeanour and the judgment with which they interpose where necessary. They possess in no small degree the confidence of the people, who regard them as at once their protectors from disturbance and their authorised officers in all cases of irregularity and disorder. It is quite astonishing to observe the influence which these police exert."

Could a more misleading paragraph be possibly committed to paper? Brief as Sir EDWARD REED's visit to Japan may have been, he must have known that in thus describing the police he was advancing a statement which (to put it mildly) is not in accordance with facts.

It is an established maxim all the world over that if a good article is required it must be paid for at a good price. A reference to the rates of police wages published in our issue of the 15th. August last will show that the monthly salaries received by these "myrmidons of the law" range from a maximum of 10 yen to seniors to a minimum of 4 yen to fourth class constables. We expressed our opinion very strongly at the time as to the class of men likely to be obtained for these sums and numerous subsequent depredations have more than justified the estimation we formed of this "remarkable" body of men. "Remarkable for their good appearance in European costume," are they Sir Edward? Well, you know, opinions may differ and there is no possibility of accounting for tastes; but in our humble opinion a more slovenly, sleepy set of men could scarcely be met with than the Japanese representative of the London "bobby." Sir Edward seemed to be rather dubious about the "European costume" for he took the precaution to enclose the words in parenthesis. The clothes seem to be made by contract without any reference to the size of the wearers and, as a natural consequence, they are either too close fitting or else they "fit too much." "The judgment with which they interpose &c." is another virtue with which Sir EDWARD REED credits this noble army of "eighteen thousand picked men." For once we agree with the *quondam* guest of the "cosmopolitan table" presided over by the "most excellent governor" before whom the *Hongkong Telegraph* loves to cringe and grovel. "Discretion is the better part of valour" and it is well known, both in Yokohama and Nagasaki that the Japanese police are wonderfully discreet—in the matter of interference; theirs is decidedly

a non-intervention policy. Their "judgment" very frequently induces them to beat a hasty retreat if, by any chance, temerity should lead them to interpose in an attempt at robbery; the depredators whom they longed to arrest prove too many for them; a race ensues, the bold P. C. comes in first with the unapprehended prisoner or prisoners a bad second.

"They possess in no small degree the confidence of the people." What people may we ask? If their own countrymen are meant by "the people" signs of confidence either are decidedly wanting or else are far too microscopic for our limited vision. Recent events go far to prove that either the criminal section of "the people" are not afraid of the police or else are eminently successful in bribing them to "let well alone." It is morally certain that foreign residents place no confidence in them whatever, but on the contrary regard them with mistrust and suspicion; with mistrust because they well know they will look in vain to them for protection, and with suspicion because their appearance excites an uncomfortable feeling that they are so many spies hired by their government to watch and secretly report the actions of foreigners.

We have spoken plainly and strongly because the occasion demands it. It is always a difficult matter for the rulers of Japan to hear the truth. The native press, being under censorship, dare not express their thoughts, and subsidized foreign journals cannot afford to. We however, have no occasion to mince matters and therefore we have no hesitation in telling the Japanese government that their body of "eighteen thousand picked men" is worse than useless and that the sooner it is re-organized the better it will be for all concerned. The present rates of pay should be increased as they are insufficient to induce any man worth having to join the force; probably nine-tenths of those who at present compose it are simply in the ranks because all other means of existence are denied to them and we all know that the rag-tag-and-bobtail of humanity are not calculated to make either good policemen or good citizens.

In addition to better pay, stricter discipline, and more complete organization is absolutely indispensable; and until the government take steps to place the police on a very different footing than that on which it has hitherto stood, robberies and depredations of all kinds will continue to abound and the complaints of foreigners will always be bitter, loud-toned, and only too well-founded.—Oct. 4.

The following report of exports and imports for July and August last, is published by the customs bureau:—

JULY.	
Exports ... ..	Yen 2,375,863
Imports ... ..	" 2,392,417
Excess of imports ... ..	Yen 16,553
Export of specie & bullion ...	Yen 303,543
Imports " " "	" 23,168
AUGUST.	
Exports ... ..	Yen 2,310,284
Imports ... ..	" 3,040,364
Excess of imports ... ..	Yen 730,030
Export of specie & bullion ...	Yen 375,375
Import " " "	" 22,004

## Miscellaneous Articles.

VITAL STATISTICS IN JAPAN.<sup>1</sup>

IT must be a matter of great regret to the director of the Central Sanitary Bureau, Dr. Nagayo, the industrious compiler of these statistics, to be the author of a work containing so much information and yet so barren in trustworthy results as to the causes and prevention of disease.

It is of fundamental importance that statistical facts should be drawn from a correct basis and judiciously compared, or they may be an abundant source of error and confusion. Their whole object and purpose is to ascertain the causes militating against health and vitality, and unless adequate and exact they only mislead.

The division of statistics of any disease into age-periods without an accompanying statement of the existing population at those periods, may indeed tell the native physician what diseases he may chiefly expect to meet with at those ages, but beyond this, as to giving the relative danger to the nation at those several ages, they are not only valueless but may lead to error. The absence of this precludes us from drawing any valuable inferences as to the important factors of age and occupation from tables 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 15. If this were supplied they would, if correct, give detailed information as to the mortality at various ages from different groups of diseases, and the way in which various occupations modify this mortality.

The first three tables deal with the mortality of Japan during the two years, 1878-79 and 1879-80.

In the year 1878-79, 442,844 persons died: in the year 1879-80, 526,722. This is a ratio per 1000, of 13.47 and 17.01 in these years respectively. But the estimate of the population is based on calculations made for January, 1879, so that, while the first ratio may be taken as fairly correct, the second is too high; how much so we have no means of judging as the calculations of population are not given.

To take the year 1878-79, tables No. 1-A and No. 3-A tell us, that out of the above 442,844 deaths, a little more than a fifth (20.58 per cent.) were caused by diseases of the digestive organs. The two headings "diseases of children" and "constitutional diseases" also mean in great part diseases of the digestive organs, either from improper feeding or inflammation of those organs on the one hand, or states of system wholly or partially due to those diseases on the other, so that an uncertain, but undoubtedly no small part of the combined mortality under these two headings must be referred to diseases of the digestive organs. This combined mortality amounts to 77,982, which is above 17 per cent. more. It is clear then of what primary importance it must be to trace these diseases to their causes and to remove them.

Table No. 3A. is concerned with the relation between the occupations of the before-mentioned 442,844 persons and their mortality. Of these 86,933 must be dismissed under the vague heading "miscellaneous occupations." Of the remaining 355,911 deaths:—

287,636 ... ..	were farmers.
42,700 ... ..	merchants.
19,942 ... ..	artisans.
5,633 ... ..	labourers.

As before stated the total number of farmers &c. amongst whom these deaths occurred is not given, and it is therefore impossible to say what ratio per thousand of each occupation this mortality represents, and consequently what the relative expectation of life in each occupation *per se*, is, but the diseases by which each is chiefly endangered may be pointed out in a tabular form, thus, the numbers showing the ratio *per thousand deaths*, i.e. the relative importance of the death causes.

	Diseases of the Digestive Organs.	Diseases of the Nervous System.	Constitutional Diseases.	Diseases of the Respiratory Organs.	Infections or Contagious Diseases.	Diseases of Children.	Diseases of the Circulatory Organs.
Farmers.....	208	154	159	139	132	116	14
Merchants...	197	174	123	166	143	106	21
Artisans.....	202	165	125	174	134	103	21
Labourers...	199	151	120	155	172	101	20

In this list farmers show the least relative mortality from infectious diseases and from those of the respiratory and circulatory organs, and the highest from diseases of the digestive organs, the diseases of children, and constitutional diseases. The merchants show the least relative mortality from diseases of the digestive organs, and the greatest from diseases of the nervous system and circulatory organs. The artisans show the highest relative mortality from diseases of the respiratory organs. The labourers show the least relative mortality from diseases of the nervous system, constitutional diseases, and diseases of children, and the highest from infectious diseases.

Table No. 3-B is a similar table for the period July 1st, 1879, to June 30th, 1880.

Table No. 4 gives the monthly prevalence of certain infectious or contagious diseases (cholera excepted) during the year 1879-80, from which we learn that typhoid fever is most prevalent in the warm weather, reaching its highest point in August, and least prevalent in the months of March and December: that dysentery follows a very similar course. Diphtheria was most frequent in April and at its lowest in December: typhus fever at its highest in August, and its lowest in February, whilst small-pox was at its highest in April and its lowest in August and September. August is the month with the highest mortality from infectious diseases, and December that with the lowest, but if we except small-pox as well as cholera then April stands out as pre-eminently the month of least mortality from infectious diseases.

Table No. 5 which applies to the period July 1st 1879 to June 30th 1880, during the first half of which time cholera prevailed, gives the relative share that cholera, typhoid fever, dysentery, diphtheria, and typhus fever took in the mortality of that time as compared with each other, when they were in the order named, cholera alone, however, accounting for 159,722 deaths out of 179,970. The liability to these diseases of different occupations cannot be inferred with safety, as the ratio of the mortality to the population in each occupation is not given.

All that can safely be inferred from tables 6 to 10 inclusive, is the relative prevalence in different provinces, of cholera, typhoid fever, dysentery, diphtheria, and typhus fever, and the various death-rates caused by them. Some of the more noteworthy figures are given below.

DISEASES.		GREAT TEST PREVALENCE.		LEAST PREVALENCE.		HIGHEST DEATH RATES.		LOWEST DEATH RATES.	
		Per 1000		Per 1000		Per cent.		Per cent.	
True & apparent cholera - - - - - (Table 6)	Ishikawa ken	25.94	Tochigi ken	1.22	Gunma ken	89.19	Nagasaki ken	50.20	
	Osaka fu	18.59	Kioto fu	1.73	Sakai ken	87.18	Kumamoto ken	53.11	
	Kaitakushi	18.15	Yamaguchi ken	1.91	Fukushima ken	86.16	Kanagawa ken	18.52	
	Yehime ken	13.84			Kioto fu	69.78	Nagano ken	30.20	
	Okayama ken	13.33			Ishikawa ken	63.94	Kagoshima ken	33.33	
Typhoid Fever - - - - - (Table 7)	Kaitakushi	8.19	Miyagi ken	0.23	Yamaguchi ken	86.76	Akita ken	1.97	
	Gifu ken	7.63	Fukuoka ken	0.29	Aichi ken	75.41	Tochigi ken	4.13	
	Oita ken	7.28	Tokio fu	0.33	Ishikawa ken	72.15			
	Akita ken	70.91	Osaka fu	0.46	Aichi ken	94.44	Iwate ken	4.63	
	Iwate ken	64.17	Aichi ken	0.84	Yamaguchi ken	73.17	Amomori ken	8.16	
Dysentery - - - - - (Table 8)	Tochigi ken	5.66	Nagasaki ken	0.36	Yamaguchi ken	90.91	Tochigi ken	13.13	
			Amomori ken	0.42	Nagano ken	90.82	Ibaraki ken	22.22	
			Iwate ken	0.52					
Diphtheria - - - - - (Table 9)	Tochigi ken	15.08	Yamaguchi ken	1.01	Niigata ken	100.00	Tochigi ken	4.65	
					Aichi ken	83.33	Sakai ken	9.00	
Typhus Fever - - - - - (Table 10)	Kaitakushi	12.05	Yamaguchi ken	1.06					
	Kagoshima ken	10.28	Shizuoka ken	1.14					

Table 6 is imperfectly worked out. Having begun by dividing the cases of cholera into true and apparent, and carrying out this distinction in the columns showing sexes, deaths, and recoveries, it is omitted in that devoted to the ratio per 1000 attacked, a point of great importance.

Perhaps, however, we cannot place much confidence in the distinction, as the difference in the death rate between the two varies greatly in the returns from the different Fu and Ken, and in one case the mortality from the "true" is 50.20 per cent. while that from the "apparent" is 60.06 per cent!

Table 8 shows a great difference in the character of the disease (dysentery) in different localities. In Table 9, Tochigi-ken shows the greatest prevalence of diphtheria, but the lowest death rate. Either a very mild form of disease occurred or other cases were included besides diphtheria proper; this would seem to require investigation. Curiously enough the same fact appears in Table 9 (typhus fever) and in the same ken.

Some account of the various conditions in each ken, as to soil, site, climate, &c. would be a useful accompaniment to these tables, and a would assist in tracing the origin and spread of the various outbreaks of infectious disease.

(1) Statistical Tables of Birth, Marriages, Deaths, &c., &c. Exhibited at the Second National Industrial Exhibition, Tokio, 1881.

In table 11 (small-pox) we have again to regret the absence of the numbers of the population at each age-period, without which the proportion of those attacked by this disease in regard to age, is left in uncertainty. The chief point of interest in this table, though not explicitly set forth is that, while the total mortality from small-pox is nearly 27 per cent., that among the unvaccinated is about 32 per cent., whilst amongst the vaccinated it only reaches 11 per cent. It would have been well to set forth this clear inference from the table plainly, as it is one of great importance. In this table we miss the column giving the ratio per 1000, though as it is given in the other tables for the same localities it is difficult to understand why it should not be worked out for a disease of such serious character as small-pox, though fortunately it is not nearly so prevalent as formerly.

Tables 12A. and 12B. are merely records of the vaccinations, successful and unsuccessful, performed in the several fu or ken from July 1st, 1878 to June 30th, 1880, but incomplete, some being only for the half year January 1st to June 30th 1879. Owing to the absence of a column representing the respective populations of the districts in which the vaccinations occurred, no information is given as to the percentage of protected persons in each district, a matter which is of moment in connection with a possible fresh outbreak of the disease in an epidemic form.—Sept. 24.

## Reviews.

### ROCKY MOUNTAIN HEALTH RESORTS.\*

THE above is the title of a work specified in a foot-note below published by Messrs. Houghton Mifflin & Co. of Boston. The writer, who has already published one or two pamphlets on the same subject, appears to have made pulmonary diseases his especial study and may therefore be considered, to some extent, an authority on a class of ailments which have always been considered to be more or less incurable.

Dr. Denison commences his task by furnishing some interesting and rather startling statistics on the prevalence of consumption in America and other parts of the world. His tables, which display great care and research, are said to have been compiled from the returns of the principal Life Assurance Companies and may therefore be considered reliable. He says with reference to America:—

"Our interest is particularly centred in the ratio of deaths from pulmonary disease among adults, as it is among them that the mortality mainly occurs. Allowing for the mortality in youth and childhood, which covers nearly half of all the deaths, the ratio of deaths from consumption among adults is nearly doubled. This reckoning adds weight to the significant fact that, according to the last census, about fourteen per cent of all deaths in the United States are from consumption, while in some considerable districts (as New England States New Brunswick, Nova Scotia,

"Newfoundland, and Canada), densely populated cities (as New York), and low countries bordering upon rivers, it is over twenty per cent. of the total mortality."

"It is estimated that of every ten thousand persons in the United States thirty-five die annually of consumption. According to Lombard, the mortality from this disease is twelve per cent. in England and Scotland, and eleven per cent. in France; while during the years 1858 and 1859 it amounted to nearly one-fifth of the mortality from all causes in Russia; and in the English army in garrison the mortality reaches the extraordinary proportion of forty-six per cent."

This last assertion, with all due deference to the learned author, we certainly think ought to be taken *cum grano salis*, that is, judging from the annual blue books of the army medical department which we have had an opportunity of perusing for many years past. It is quite certain however, that a great many cases of chest affections have been brought on or aggravated by the knapsack formerly worn by the British infantry but which has at length been consigned to the limbo of the past in company with the leather stocks and brown bess of the much boasted days of Wellington and Waterloo. Let us however, return to Dr. Denison and his interesting little book.

Want of space prevents us from giving the author's tables *in extenso* which we much regret. We have however, eliminated the following figures from them which will tend to show their gist. The number of deaths from consumption for each group of ten years in the experience of two life insurance companies stands as follows:—

AGE AT DEATH  IN DECENNIAL PERIODS.	NUMBER DYING FROM CONSUMPTION.	
	National Life Insurance Co. (ten years experience.)	Mutual Life Insurance Co. of New York.
20 to 29 years	28	181
30 to 39 "	55	401
40 to 49 "	29	296
50 to 59 "	18	113
60 to 69 "	5	33
70 to 79 "	—	7
Total.....	135	1,031

To those numbers Dr. Denison adds:—

"Estimating each policy at \$2,000, which is about the average, here is the startling fact that these companies have paid out over \$2,000,000 in losses by this disease alone; an amount which represents nearly one fifth of all their losses sustained by death."

Table III., showing the mortality from consumption in the adult male population of the United States, arranged in decennial periods of life from the U. S. census 1870, gives the following results:—

Age in Decennial Periods.	Male Population of the United States.	Annual No. of Deaths from Consumption.	Annual No. of Deaths from Consumption in 10,000 liv'g.
20 to 29 years	3,351,617	7,842	23
30 to 39 "	2,452,999	6,591	27
40 to 49 "	1,829,599	5,054	27
50 to 59 "	1,209,855	3,787	31
60 to 69 "	654,153	3,042	46
70 to 79 "	259,318	1,863	71
80 to 89 "	60,042	664	111

To the foregoing the following remarks are appended:—

"We have here more extensive, though less accurately tabulated results, drawn from the ravages of consumption among the adult male population of the United States."

"Taking into consideration the many inaccuracies in these national statistics,—due to the exclusion of women and children, and not including many deaths fairly to be attributed to this cause—we are justified in assuming that nearly 100,000 deaths annually occur in the United States by this disease."

In advocating the claims of high altitude as health resorts for consumptive patients, Dr. Denison argues clearly forcibly and fairly and, though not dictatorially, with a degree of confidence which allows that he has given the subject his especial study and attention. The medical profession both here and elsewhere may feel compelled to differ from him in opinion, but they will certainly accord to his remarks that amount of deference and respect which is certainly their due.

Most consumptive patients are apt to fall into sedentary habits and are perhaps frequently rather too much encouraged in so doing by their medical attendants. Dr. Denison adopts a different course altogether and recommends active, healthy exercise combined with what he is pleased to call "Pulmonary Gymnastics." As this style of athletics may be probably somewhat new to our readers, we venture to give the *modus operandi* in the author's own words:—

"The healthful activity of the lungs, which our ideal climate should insure, may be daily stimulated by the *health-lift*, or something similar to it, by which the respiration is sent to the extreme parts of the lungs and the blood makes a complete circuit of the terminal arteries and veins. Or a gymnastic experiment may be tried with benefit to simply weak lungs. It consists in slowly inhaling the fresh out-door air, night and morning to the full capacity of the unrestricted chest, and while the air is retained, such gyrations of the arms and trunk should be practised as will thoroughly distribute it to all parts of the lungs. Quick thrusts of the arms upward, forward, downward, and outward, are practised by some; but the slow and largest possible circles made with the hands at the sides, moved forward, or backward and upward, seem to be equally effective. The daily practice also of dashing cold water upon the chest and arms, followed by a vigorous rubbing with a coarse, crash towel, is frequently of the greatest benefit. If this rude imitation of, or the shower-bath itself is not used—which is preferably stimulating to the skin and capillary circulation according to the force of the current of water—then quick, cold sponging followed by the rubbing, should be daily practised."

"An excellent system of habitual gymnastics, which in some of its phases may be suited to almost any condition of chronic lung disease, is the following: *First*: From four to eight times a day—especially upon rising in the morning or retiring at night—walk into the corner of the room with the arms outstretched, the palms of the hands being against the two walls, quite as high as the shoulders, and breathe several times in that position. This can be repeatedly practised at one trial, and then the process can be rendered desirably more difficult by standing two or three feet from the

\* *Rocky Mountain Health Resorts an analytical study of high altitudes in relation to the arrest of Chronic Pulmonary Disease.* By Charles Denison, A. M., M. D. Second Edition. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. The Riverside Press Cambridge. 1881.



"corner and letting the chest forward into it as before, long breaths being taken while the chest is thus expanded. *Second*: This exercise may be still increased as follows: bending forward support the trunk by the hands upon the seats of two chairs about two feet apart, and straighten the body, with only the toes touching the floor, meanwhile breathing in that strained position. The agency of the fixed shoulders and muscles in expanding the apices of the lungs is apparent to everyone, who understands their relation to respiration, and can be easily demonstrated by trying the experiment."

Our tasks draws to its close. We would gladly give a more extended notice of this ably written work had it been in our power to do so. As we have already hinted, members of the medical profession alone can rightly appreciate the arguments advanced by Dr. Denison. Regarding the book from an outside point of view, we can only say that it abounds with curious and interesting information always acceptable to the general reader. In many passages the author has shown himself to be possessed of descriptive powers far above the average and his style of writing is at all times easy and graceful. An ingenious climate map of the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains is deserving of special notice. We can safely commend Dr. Denison's book to the favorable consideration of the sons of Galen amongst whom we trust it will have a wide circulation.

#### STATE VITICULTURAL COMMISSION.\*

WE have been favored with a copy of the pamphlet specified below. The subject possesses little interest to the general public here; we therefore refrain from entering into details which are likely to be skipped by the majority of readers. Those however, who are experienced in the cultivation of the vine will find much to amuse as well as to instruct in the voluminous report now lying before us. Three lectures on the "Phylloxera," on the "Curing of Raisins in Spain" and on the "Maintenance of our Vineyards" will well repay perusal. The entire volume affords abundant proof, to those who will take the trouble to read it through, that the State of California may yet prove a formidable rival to the vine-producing countries of Europe.

\* *First Annual Report of the Board of State Viticultural Commissions. Second Edition—Revised. Sacramento: State Office: J. D. Young Supt. State Printing. 1881.*

## Reports.

### SILK TRADE.

Minutes of a meeting held at the rooms of the Yokohama General Chamber of Commerce on Thursday, the 22nd September 1881.

Present:—Messrs. Wilkin, Kingdon, T. Walsh, Schultze, Mollison, Taylor, Heine-mann, Heimann, Bavier, Illies, Merian, Ziegler, Ludwig, Fobes, Schaal, Dourille, Harmand, Grösser, Granwald, Guissani, Johnstone, Abegg, Mottu, Biagioni, Scheidt, Leysner, Vivanti, Marians, Thomas, and Gribble.

Mr. Wilkin was asked to take the chair, and Mr. Gribble to act as secretary.

The chairman stated that, after the meeting held at the German Club on Tuesday last, signatures had been obtained from the greater part of the silk buyers in Yokohama to an agreement binding themselves to abstain from purchasing through the Rengo Kiito Ni Adzakarisho. The present meeting was called to consider what further steps should be taken, and he asked those who had summoned it to state what they had to suggest.

Mr. Thomas then proposed and Mr. Bavier seconded;—

"That the agreement be printed in Japanese, with all the signatures attached, and circulated amongst the silk dealers in Yokohama: that it be sent to Fu and Ken, and generally be distributed throughout the country: also that a meeting of the signatories to the agreement be called this day week, or the same hour and place, to consider what further steps are necessary."

This resolution was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

The chairman then read a copy of the letter he had addressed to the Rengo Kiito Ni Adzakarisho on the preceding day, in accordance with the resolution passed at the meeting held in the German Club on the 20th instant.

This letter received the cordial approval of the meeting.

On the proposition of Mr. Walsh, a vote of thanks was passed to the members of the German Club for the use of their room on Tuesday evening last, which the chairman undertook to communicate.

After some further discussion and a vote of thanks to the chairman the meeting adjourned.

The following is the agreement, with the signatures thereto:—

We, the undersigned, hereby declare that we refuse to buy silk on the improper and arbitrary terms laid down by the Rengo Kiito Ni Adzakarisho in their recent notification.

(Signed)	Bavier & Co.
"	Thomas & Co.
"	Siber & Brennwald.
"	Wilkin & Robison.
"	Walsh, Hall & Co.
"	John Middleton.
"	Mollison, Fraser & Co.
"	Ziegler & Co.
"	E. Whittall.
"	Findlay, Richardson & Co.
"	Mourilyan, Heimann & Co.
"	Fraser, Farley & Co.
"	Smith, Baker & Co.
"	Schoene & Mottu.
"	Kingdon, Schwabe & Co.
"	Paul Heinemann & Co.
"	Sieber-Waser.
"	Cornes & Co.
"	H. Ludwig & Co.
"	Grosser & Co.
"	Dell'Oro & Co.
"	C. Illies & Co.
"	Adolphe Schultze.
"	W. Sagel.
"	P. Dourille.
"	C. Guissani.
"	F. Vivanti.
"	H. C. Morf & Co.
"	China & Japan Trading Co.
"	B. Gillet.
"	Hecht Lilienthal & Co.
"	Geo. H. Allcock.
"	F. Scheidt.
"	Frazar & Co.

Yokohama, the 21st September, 1881.

The following is an addendum to the original resolution:—

We, the undersigned, hereby declare that although our names are not amongst the signatories to the silk-buying declaration we nevertheless will do all in our power to defeat the combination of the Japanese dealers for the purpose of enforcing inspection, weighing, and payment for silk in the native town.

per pro. JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.

W. B. WALTER.

W. M. STRACHAN & Co.

### SPECIAL SERVICE AT THE UNION CHURCH.

A SPECIAL funeral service was held at the Union Church at 11 a.m., on Sunday the 25th. instant, in commemoration of the death of the late President Garfield.

Long before the appointed hour the congregation began to assemble and by about 10 50 a.m. the church was well filled. Amongst those present we observed the Hon. John A. Bingham, U. S. Minister at Tokio, Consul General Van Buren, Admiral Clitz and staff, most of the leading American residents, and a considerable sprinkling of other nationalities. The officers and crew of the U. S. corvette *Monocacy* were also numerous represented. The porch-way and the pulpit were draped in black, and a great many who were present were dressed in deep mourning. At the east end of the building were the words "God Reigns" neatly and tastefully worked in cypress.

The Rev. J. L. Ammerman of Tokio opened the service by reading Ps. 90, "Lord thou hast been our dwelling place" &c.; then followed Ps. 93, 96, 97, and 99, alternate verses being taken by the minister and congregation. The lessons were from Hab. II. v. 1—4, 8—14, and Joel II. v. 1—2, 12—18, 21—32. After the reading of Scripture, Hymn 74, "God moves in a mysterious way," was sung. The Rev. J. H. Ballagh (who also preached the sermon) then engaged in prayer and in earnest, stirring tones implored the Divine assistance in behalf of the great and mighty nation thus suddenly deprived of their chosen ruler, for the bereaved family, the new President and Cabinet, and for all representatives of America in all parts of the world. He prayed also for the blessing of heaven upon all rulers and potentates (mentioning many of them by name) as well as upon labourers in the mission field, that through them, heathen nations might be brought to a knowledge of the one true God. The Hymn before the sermon was No. 94, "Keep silence all created things."

The rev. gentleman took for his text, Joel II. v. 2, "A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations."

The preacher commenced by saying that these words uttered by the prophet Joel eight hundred years before Our Saviour's advent as descriptive of God's terrible judgments upon His chosen land and people he felt were applicable, at least by accommodation, to the circumstances that enshrouded a great and free people on that day in an almost impenetrable gloom. Four Sabbaths, within a period of a little over twelve months, have been memorable days in the pulpits and churches of the greater part of the American people. The first was in the midst

of the hostile and almost helpless strife of the republican convention for the nomination of a candidate for the Presidency. Party lines were drawn tightly; the delegates pledged to their favourite nominees showed no signs of concession, when lo! after that Sabbath day's rest, that Sabbath day's prayers and entreaties to Almighty God for his intervention, a new candidate was announced, and to the astonishment of all men, and most of all to the candidate himself, he was unanimously nominated. This was a result that filled all good men's hearts with praise to God when they knew that candidate was none other than James A. Garfield, a man of tried character as a Christian as well as a statesman. This was a day of rejoicing indeed. A similar day of joy and gladness was that Sabbath that followed the announcement of the election of the man of their choice in a canvass of unwonted spirit and party rivalry. These signal interpositions of Providence were not lost sight of by all good men, and by men of all parties. Political opponents even felicitated themselves and the country on the result. A most happy and a most gracious issue of a great political struggle. The integrity of the man thus chosen was, however, soon put to the severest test, even to the alienation of the leaders of the party he represented, and that led to much of that speaking evil of the ruler of the people that bore its legitimate fruit, as it did but four terms previously, in a dastardly attempt upon the Chief Executive's life. The third of July, the Sabbath that followed that fatal shot was such a day of darkness as the nation had never known, not even excepting the 16th. April 1865, the day that announced the death of the "Martyred President." That was in a time of distress and perplexity—amid the din and carnage of war, or as the smoke was but rolling away from the battle fields of the South. But this was a thunder-clap out of a clear sky when there was not a sound or suspicion in the air. But oh! How deep and deadening the pall that fell upon the national heart, and upon the lovers of humanity in all the earth! The disgrace to American institutions was more keenly felt than even the loss of so good and great a man. But the darkness was gradually illuminated with hope, as the prayers for the President's recovery went up from all hearts, yea even from the assassin's, it is said, till out of the deep gloom all began to greet the dawn of returning day. But alas! again the electric spark flashes across continents and under seas:—"President Garfield is dead!" And now a "day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness as of the morning spread upon the mountains." After the first shock of the great calamity is passed, we begin to ask for a solution of the mystery. One enquiry prompted is to ask "How doth God know, and is there knowledge in the Most High? Another suggestion is "an enemy hath done this!" An answer comes "shall there be evil in the city and I the Lord have not done it?" "I make peace and I create evil." "I will cause the sun to go down at noon and I will darken the earth in the clear day." "What I do thou knowest not now, but thou shalt know hereafter." "None of us liveth unto himself, and no man dieth unto himself." How shall we regard this great Providence so as to gain those lessons which God the Governor of the Universe would impress upon us by this afflictive event? And first of all we should hear God himself speaking unto us "out of the thick darkness that veils his throne:" "Be still and know that I am God: I will be exalted in the earth." "God alone is great" cried the eloquent Massillon in his funeral

oration over Louis the Grand, catching inspiration and voicing the lesson that God ever teaches in the removal of the great ones of the earth. God's absolute sovereignty over life and death, and over nations and individuals, is of paramount importance for all who dwell upon the earth to know. And he is nearest God's heart and way of thinking who, in any great personal or national distress, turns as naturally and quickly to this guiding star of human destiny as the needle does to the pole. In the lamented President's own life we had a noble example of this truth. When the distressing tidings reached him of President Lincoln's assassination, what was the exclamation that burst from his lips? "God reigns, and the government at Washington still lives." Oh how little could he have foreseen the comfort those words of his then spoken were to give in a similar event concerning himself sixteen years later! Comfort not only concerning the country's safety and welfare, but of his own personal faith in an All-wise and All-superintending Providence. Without a doubt our beloved President has left some expressions of humble, devout, sublime trust in God as regards himself, his afflicted family and his country that will do much to dry the tears of sorrow from the eyes of those who weep for him to-day. Again, God would teach us that He is Sovereign not only, but that our trust and dependence must be placed upon Him alone; that He will be exalted among the nations. "In God we trust" is stamped on the national coin; this must be not a mere sentiment; it must be made a living, every day faith, an abiding trust for all time. In the nomination and election of President Garfield, the good people of the country realized their dependence, but, were fast settling down into trust in the man, his principles and his policy. This may be well, but God will not give his honour to another. He would have us rest on no one man, but would rather we should lean upon Himself and upon His help. Next to Himself, he would have us trust in ourselves, in *principles* rather than in *men*. In this respect, a good and great man's removal may be a necessity for the greater good of the greater number. In this wise pastors are removed from churches even as the Great Shepherd was removed from His flock that the Holy Spirit, as a universal and ever present helper might be more fully enjoyed. Thus the Kingdom of God among men is promoted and established. Undoubtedly the principles inaugurated so faithfully by President Garfield will be conserved more powerfully by his death than by his life. His being wounded defeated his hottest political opponents and his death will do what Lysurgus in vain sought to do—make his principles binding on his successors. To depart from them will be thought ingratitude or treason to his memory. But why allow so good a man to be stricken down and by so worthless a hand? Surely this implies the want of a Superintending Providence? Not so clearly. If the lesson taught is to be effective, it must needs require a worthy example, the purer, the more illustrious the better. The insignificance of the means only adds to the sovereignty that permits it. The death of William the Silent, the noble Prince of Orange, by a pistol shot from the insignificant Balthazar Gerard; of President Lincoln by a third class play-actor in the midst of a drama in which he played the rôle of Brutus in fearful earnest, and now of the brave and noble Garfield by a bankrupt office-seeker only show that, in the great contest of the forces of evil and of good in the world, the meanest instruments are not to be despised since they may be the tools of some

higher and invisible power for the performance of the greatest evil. And shall we fail to recognise or to call that power by his Scripture name of "that Old Serpent the Devil"? Surely not. This is "the liar and the murderer from the beginning." In every such event we are brought nearer the greatest of all Martyrdoms, whether by private assassinations or by political murder—the killing of the Son of God; and we are helped to understand the unseen but powerful agent of its accomplishment. This is the spirit of all evil, the potent source of all blasphemy, evil-speaking, covetousness, personal ambition, party intrigues, contentions and murders. And that it selects for its victims the pure, the good, the unoffending, the great and the benevolent manifests all the more clearly his unmitigated enmity and essential evil. And it is thus that Satanic hate and rage are best defeated by exposing their pure malevolence. And the very vices he seeks to perpetuate are overthrown by the insane measures which he prompts their victims to take for their establishment. Feudalism killed not Okubo but itself by the slashes of its maddened victims. Secession, if in any way responsible for the death of the martyred President, had its own death-knell sounded in that fatal pistol shot. And the baleful doctrine that to the victor belongs the spoils, and that a government office is but a place for plunder needs such an example of its distasteful diabolical character as to brand it ever after as *Giteauism*. Happy for the American people, and the perpetuity of republicanism, if they learn to stand aghast at the brink of ruin to which we have come, and to stamp every office-seeker, for the sake of the spoils that come to him, as a traitor to their country worse than Benedict Arnold, a Charles Guiteau—a murderer of free government by, and of, and for the people. A crime greater than this cannot well be conceived or executed for a meaner, lower and more ignoble purpose. In view of such a power and of such principles is it not a consolation that "God reigns?" A further intent in a distinguished object being made the victim of diabolic rage is that the effects may be made more extensively known—that God may be exalted in all the earth. The day of universal knowledge has come. Now, no event can be done in a corner. What occurs in one nation is heralded to the remotest ends of the earth. The whole earth is drawn into the closest correspondence and sympathy. It would seem to be some mitigation of the national and domestic grief of those afflicted by this sad Providence to reflect how far-reaching are its effects, and how spontaneous and universal is the regret it awakens in all hearts. Is there a heart so forsaken of God as to be able to rejoice, however secretly, in this event? We can hardly credit such a suspicion. On the other hand witness the expressions of sympathy and condolence from all the Kings, Emperors, Presidents and potentates of the earth. Mark the testimony of the myriad-paged press. Take the thirty-five millions of this land as an illustration. It is certain but a very few of this people will not be apprized of the result as they have already been of the attempt made on the President's life. And as they were appalled with the intelligence of the former, they will surely be more impressed with the sad termination of that life so long held in suspense. But a higher lesson than all others the Lord would teach us is, that as with individuals, so with nations, "whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth." Our national vanity, and pride of our republican institutions has led us "to sacrifice unto our net, and burn incense to our drag;" but the Lord would

check our national exultation over the extent and richness of our territory, the freedom and excellence of our institutions and the increase and influx of a teeming population, by twice visiting us with the disgrace of the assassination of the Chief Executive Officer and this when assassinations, so rife in other lands, with us are universally repudiated and comparatively unknown. Why should the dagger be pointed at the breasts of its noblest and worthiest patriots? Certainly that the disgrace may be more keenly felt. It is the nation, so to speak is wounded in the assault made on its President. That the people have acted nobly magnificently under this infliction of wrong is universally conceded. No fiendish cries for blood or vengeance; but calm dignified demeanour has been the national attitude. But is not something more than this wanting? Will not the people individually and collectively, the priest and the minister "weep between the porch and the altar," and cry unto God for forgiveness and mercy? Then, that fullness of blessing promised in the remaining part of this 2nd. chapter of Joel, and which had its first and great fulfilment on the Day of Pentecost, after a similar tragic event, will find a new and larger fulfilment—when the Spirit of God shall flow as a river of salvation through all that broad and wide land. How great the necessity for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in some such manner upon our land must be apparent to the most casual observers. Its institutions, founded in the popular will, can only be preserved and perpetuated as purity and integrity actuates the people. Then great masses of immigrants which are pouring into its eastern and western borders from all parts of the earth need enlightenment and purification to become worthy citizens of the Great Republic. Then the influence of America upon the future of the world's history, upon the ancient systems of European and Asiatic civilizations must go on increasing with the progress of the American nation. What that influence shall be is to be determined by the amount of the salt of Divine Grace cast into its seething masses. Are the bitter waters of communism, nihilism, of tyranny and oppression to be healed? A Divine Elisha will need to cast into them the salt of his truth, and they shall be healed. And this is to be done as was the healing of the waters of Jericho in answer to the entreaties of the men of that city or nation. To-day then may well be a day of humiliation, of confession, and repentance of sin—a day of supplication and entreaty for the return of God's favour, and "the day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, shall be as the morning spread upon the mountains" giving herald by its glowing tints of the approach of a glorious day. Could the eloquent lips, now sealed in death, that ever powerfully pleaded for God with man, speak to us to-day; could the lessons of his life, character and results of his brief administration be better summed up than in the last words of David the son of Jesse, the man who was raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob and the sweet psalmist of Israel when he said "the Spirit of the Lord spake by me, and his word was in my tongue. The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spake to me. he that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God. And he shall be as the light of the morning, when the sun ariseth, even a morning without clouds; as the tender grass springing out of the earth by clear shining after rain." The divine eulogy and portraiture of a righteous governor and the beneficent results of his government! May our own

country and all the countries of the earth enjoy a long day of clear-shining of the Sun of Righteousness after its long dark, dismal night of the reign of evil.

This eloquent, thrilling discourse (which we have been compelled to condense to much narrower limits than we could wish) was delivered amidst manifest signs of emotion on the part of the reverend preacher and appeared to create a deep impression on all who were present, by whom it was attentively listened to. The concluding prayer was offered up by the Rev. A. A. Bennett after which was sung Hymn No. 96 "*A mighty fortress is our God*" &c., and then this solemn, impressive service was brought to a close by the benediction being pronounced by the Rev. J. Soper.

#### NAVAL REGATTA.

THE naval regatta of Wednesday (29th. ult.) was not as successful as its originators had no doubt expected, owing to the unpropitious state of the weather which prevented all but a few residents from accepting the Admiral's invitation to be present. The wind, coming strongly from the N.E. blew the rain which fell during the greater part of the afternoon, under the awning, necessitating it to be lowered on the starboard side which prevented the spectators from watching the boats. The course was in the direction of the lighthouse and, in the three mile races, round it.

We append the results of the several events.

#### 1.—CUTTERS. Seamen. Course 3 miles. Time 6 seconds per oar.

<i>Iron Duke</i> , 14 oared	...	1
<i>Curacao</i> , 12 "	...	2
<i>Iron Duke</i> , 12 "	...	3
" 10 "	...	0
<i>Mosquito</i> , 10 "	...	0
<i>Comus</i> , 10 "	...	0
<i>Pegasus</i> , 12 "	...	0
<i>Zephyr</i> , 10 "	...	0

1st. Prize 50 Dollars. 2nd. Prize 30 Dollars. 3rd. Prize 20 Dollars. Time 32 m. 25 sec.

#### 2.—GALLEYS. (6 oared) Course 2 miles.

<i>Iron Duke</i> ... ..	1
" (Captain's galley) ...	2
<i>Comus</i> ... ..	3
<i>Curacao</i> ... ..	0
<i>Encounter</i> ... ..	0
<i>Vigilant</i> ... ..	0

1st. Prize 15 Dollars. 2nd. Prize 10 Dollars. 3rd. Prize 5 Dollars.

#### 3.—OFFICERS RACE. Course 1 mile.

<i>Iron Duke</i> , ... ..	1
<i>Vigilant</i> ... ..	2
<i>Comus</i> ... ..	3

Leading boat won by half a length.

#### 4.—CUTTERS. Marines. Course 2 miles. Time 5 seconds per oar.

<i>Curacao</i> , 10 oared	...	1
<i>Iron Duke</i> , 12 "	...	2
<i>Pegasus</i> , 12 "	...	0
<i>Lily</i> , 10 "	...	0
<i>Mosquito</i> , 10 "	...	0

1st. Prize 30 Dollars. 2nd. Prize 20 Dollars. 3rd. Prize Save stakes. Time, 24 m. 30 sec.

#### 5.—PINNACES. Course 3 miles. Time 6 seconds per oar.

<i>Comus</i> , 14 oars.	...	1
<i>Curacao</i> , 14 "	...	2
<i>Encounter</i> , 14 "	...	3

1st Prize 10 Dollars. 2nd Prize Save stakes. Time 14 m.

#### 6.—GIGS OR WHALERS. (4 oared). Course 3 miles.

<i>Lily</i> , ... ..	1
<i>Mosquito</i> , ... ..	2
<i>Zephyr</i> , ... ..	3
<i>Swift</i> , ... ..	0

1st Prize 10 Dollars. 2nd Prize 5 Dollars. Time 49 m.

#### 7.—CUTTERS. Stokers Course 2 miles. Time 5 seconds per oar.

<i>Iron Duke</i> 12 oared	...	1
<i>Curacao</i> 10 "	...	2
<i>Mosquito</i> 10 "	...	3
<i>Lily</i> 10 "	...	0

1st. Prize 30 Dollars. 2nd. Prize 20 Dollars. Time 21. m. 55 sec.

#### 8.—WHALERS. (5 oared). Seamen, Course 3 miles.

<i>Comus</i> ... ..	1
<i>Pegasus</i> ... ..	2
<i>Mosquito</i> ... ..	3
<i>Iron Duke</i> ... ..	0
<i>Albatross</i> ... ..	0
<i>Encounter</i> ... ..	0

1st. Prize 30 Dollars. 2nd. Prize 20 Dollars. 3rd. Prize 10 Dollars.

#### 9.—DINGIES. (Any number of oars.) Course ½ mile. No time allowance.

<i>Iron Duke</i> ... ..	1
<i>Albatross</i> ... ..	2
<i>Lily</i> ... ..	0
<i>Mosquito</i> ... ..	0
<i>Comus</i> ... ..	0

1st. Prize 4 Dollars. 2nd. Prize 2 Dollars.

#### 10.—SKIFFS. Course ½ mile. Time 2 seconds per oar.

<i>Mosquito</i>	...	...	...	...	...	1
<i>Albatross</i> ,	4	oars	...	...	...	2 tie.
<i>Comus</i> ,	4	"	...	...	...	2 "
<i>Iron Duke</i> ,	4	"	...	...	...	0
<i>Curacao</i> ,	2	"	...	...	...	0
<i>Encounter</i> ,	4	"	...	...	...	0
<i>Iron Duke</i> ,	4	"	...	...	...	0

1st. Prize 5 Dollars. 2nd. Prize 3 Dollars. 3rd. Prize 2 Dollars.

#### 11.—ALL COMERS. Course 2 miles. No time allowance. (Open to all Men-of-war boats.)

<i>Iron Duke</i> , Admiral's Green Galley	1
" Cutter	2
<i>Comus</i> , ... ..	3
<i>Curacao</i> , Pinnace	4
Y. A. R. Club's boat	5
Japanese Man-of-warboat	6

Time 18 m.

THE second day of the regatta (30th. Sept.), which had been set apart for sailing races, was not more fortunate in regard to the weather than the first; the rain fell during the entire day, and the wind was so slight as to make it impossible to get through the whole of the programme. Out of the six events, only four were competed for with the following results:—

#### PROGRAMME OF SAILING RACES.

#### 1.—BOOM BOATS. Service rig. Time ¼ minutes per foot.

<i>Curacao</i> , 32 ft. Pinnace	...	1
<i>Comus</i> , do. do.	...	2
<i>Iron Duke</i> , 42 ft. Launch	...	3

1st. Prize 14 Dollars. 2nd. Prize Save stakes.

2.—CUTTERS. Service rig. Time  $\frac{1}{4}$  minutes per foot.

<i>Curacoa</i> , 27 ft. ... ..	1
<i>Comus</i> , do. ... ..	2
<i>Iron Duke</i> , 30 ft. ... ..	3
<i>Encounter</i> ... ..	0
<i>Albatross</i> , 26 ft. ... ..	0
<i>Lily</i> , 25 ft. ... ..	0

1st. Prize 22 Dollars. 2nd. Prize 12 Dollars. 3rd. Prize 6 Dollars.

3.—STEAM CUTTERS. Any rig. Time  $\frac{1}{4}$  minutes per foot.

<i>Curacoa</i> , 30 ft. ... ..	1
<i>Vigilant</i> , 25 ft. ... ..	2

1st. Prize 10 Dollars. 2nd. Prize 5 Dollars.

4.—SINGLED-BANKED BOATS. Any rig. Time  $\frac{1}{4}$  minutes per foot.

<i>Lily</i> , 26 ft. Whaler ... ..	1
<i>Albatross</i> , 27 ft. do. ... ..	2
<i>Iron Duke</i> , do. do. ... ..	3
<i>Iron Duke</i> , 30 ft. Gig ... ..	0
<i>Comus</i> , 27 ft. Whaler ... ..	0
<i>Curacoa</i> , 30 ft. Galley ... ..	0
<i>Albatross</i> , 27 ft. Whaler ... ..	0
<i>Lily</i> , 26 ft. Gig ... ..	0
<i>Vigilant</i> , 27 ft. Whaler ... ..	0

1st. Prize, 12 Dollars. 2nd. Prize, 8 Dollars. 3rd. Prize, 3 Dollars.

### TEMPERANCE MEETING AT THE GAIETY THEATRE.

THE presence in port of the Chinese squadron has set many schemes afloat for the entertainment of the British sailor. Dram-shops along the Homura Road display our national ensign and other flags, whereon are inscribed various legends indicating that the delights of Bacchus may be obtained within. Such invitations, we are glad to observe, have not appeared to be particularly seductive to Jack as no reports of drunken squabbles have reached us, neither have we seen any festive A.Bs. or convivial marines patrolling the streets in a condition somewhat the better for liquor. We are willing to believe that this is, not wholly unattributable to another and a purer influence which is at work. Recent advertisements show, that whilst Boniface is anxious to provide good, bad or indifferent liquor to the men of the fleet at exorbitant cash payments, there are others who offer higher, richer and more wholesome entertainment at a nominal price or even gratuitously. The Seaman's Free Reading Room has been daily filled to overflowing and the Gaiety Theatre, which has been set apart for the accommodation of the sons of Neptune has been liberally frequented by them. At the latter place a fairly attended meeting was held last night (28 ult.), though the audience was not as great as it might otherwise have been in consequence of another entertainment being advertised for the same hour at the Union Church, to be given by the members of the Royal Naval Temperance League. Late in the day however, the two affairs were amalgamated, but the notice thereof could scarcely have been published in time for the public to be sufficiently apprised of the change. Hence the comparative smallness of the attendance.

The Chair was taken about 7.30 p.m. by the Rev. E. C. Irwine.

The reverend gentleman in opening the proceedings expressed his pleasure at seeing so many present in spite of the inclemency of the weather and voutured to hope that the goldness of the subject on which the worthy

lecturer would address them would not freeze their spirits. He then explained the circumstances under which the theatre had been engaged for the use of the men of the fleet during their stay here and briefly announced the programme of future arrangements. He then called upon the Rev. W. Meacham to deliver his lecture upon "Icebergs: Hard a-starboard."

The Lecturer, who was greeted with much applause, commenced his address by relating a circumstance which occurred to a British steamship on board of which were many hundreds of souls. They were ploughing through the Atlantic Ocean at the rate of several knots an hour when, what appeared to be a deep mist was seen ahead. Very soon was heard the terrific cry of "Icebergs: hard a-starboard." A moment of suspense and agony ensued for all knew how imminent was the danger and that their lives were literally in their hands. The command was instantly obeyed; the helm answered, and in a few moments, all peril was at an end. The iceberg was emblematical of intemperance which was fraught with as much danger to humanity as the former was to the ship, and that as the one was avoided by prompt obedience and an immediate turn of the helm, so the other could only be steered clear of by an instant, prompt and absolute practice of temperance or total abstinence. In the course of his address the lecturer quoted the opinion of Dr. Miller of Edinburgh and other eminent medical men on the ill effects of alcohol to people in health even when taken in moderation, and also those of Rae, Ross, Livingstone and Havelock to prove that total abstinence was the safest course even within the ice bound shores of northern regions or amidst the sultry plains and dense jungles of India. He also cited many instances of the ravages of intemperance amongst those who, had they resisted the temptation, might have pursued useful and honourable careers. Temperance is usually considered a threadbare subject, but Mr. Meacham advanced many powerful arguments in its defence and, by way of light and shade introduced several amusing anecdotes which called forth many a hearty laugh.

The lecturer resumed his seat amidst prolonged applause. A unanimous and well deserved vote of thanks was awarded to him which he briefly and gracefully acknowledged.

After a few remarks from the chairman in which he expressed a hope that the seamen would enjoy themselves during their stay and that they would not hesitate to make a free use of the theatre which had been set apart for their accommodation the first part of the entertainment was brought to a close by singing the National Anthem in which the audience freely took part.

The members of Miss Weston's Royal Naval Temperance League, belonging to the various ships composing the squadron, then occupied the stage and gave a brief but well selected programme of songs, recitations and addresses. When all did well it is invidious to particularise any, but we may mention that the song by Mr. C. Vincent "I'm as happy as happy can be" drew forth a well-merited encore, and that the part songs by six petty officers and men of the *Curacoa* were most loudly applauded.

At the close the master-at-arms of the *Comus*, who officiated as chairman, apologised for the abridgment of the programme which was rendered necessary by the lateness of the hour; he presented a card of honour to Robert Johnson in accordance with the rules

of the society and announced a meeting at the Union Church for this evening. The National Anthem was again sung and the company dispersed.

We may add that the stage was tastefully decorated with ferns, and flowering plants.

### CRICKET.

DESPITE the heavy rain which fell on Friday and the threatening, clouds early on Saturday morning (1st. Oct.) a better day could hardly have been chosen for the match of "The Yokohama Cricket Club vs. the Officers of the China squadron." Lovers of the game, as also many others, have for some time past been looking forward to the advent of the squadron, and on its arrival some ten days ago a cricket match was one of the first amusements to be discussed; although we think both sides were disappointed that the cruising squadron could not be here at the same time to give a larger choice of players to our naval friends, many of whom have had little if any chance of practice for many months past. However we can but anticipate another good match on their arrival.

The visitors, among whom are some old friends, having won the toss elected to go in and the wickets were taken by Lt. Neville and Mr. Mitchell to the bowling of Dr. Wheeler and Mr. Abbott, neither of whom seemed in good bowling order as will be seen by the number of wickets they contributed to the score. The first three wickets, notwithstanding, fell rather quickly and for a meagre amount of runs. Mr. Stebbing then made a good stand contributing 13 to the score when he was well caught by Mr. Dodds, whose position in the field had hitherto been almost a sinecure. Mr. Farquhar and Lieutenant Groube added respectively 15 and 20 to the score, every one present admiring the careful and steady play of the former, who showed great promise, both in batting and fielding, of turning out to be a really first-class player in a few years time. Lieutenant Groube was, we understand, a pleasant surprise for the visitors no one ever having seen him play before: he batted rather too freely, but with great success and his fielding was deserving of notice.

We were sorry to see that our old friend "Extras" contributed nearly one-fourth of the total score (107) from which it would not appear that the kind of practice now in vogue among the Y. C. C. Eleven is conducive to good fielding. In fact the fielding in many instances was very bad. Mr. Abbott and Mr. Durant who may generally be reckoned on as quick and reliable fields, seemed decidedly out of place the former somewhat retrieved himself by the splendid catch with which Mr. Farquhar was disposed of, but we should recommend more fielding and less "slogging" than is generally to be seen on practice nights.

Mr. Duff's bowling analysis is almost worthy of a place in the annual curiosities of Cricket, and we doubt whether a better record can be shown of any bowler at home during the present season than that we have the pleasure of appending.

The Squadron were disposed of—after a short respite for tiffin—at about half past two for a total of 107 runs: and with very little delay were out in the field ready for the innings of the Y.C.C. which was opened by Messrs. Veitch and Mollison. Mr. Stebbing



and Lt. Warren taking the bowling, Mr. Mol-lison after only a short turn at the bat was cleverly caught at long leg from a hit which really deserved a better fate. His place was filled by Dr. Wheeler who had a long and tiring innings (both to the bowlers and himself) for only 9 runs, when he played the ball on to his wicket, an accident which we learn was attributable to a missing pocket handkerchief. Mr. Durant and Mr. Sutter played in something like their old style, but are both sadly out of practice. Mr. Veitch after a long and well played innings was taken by a ball from Mr. Stebbing. Mr. Duff, as usual, played in faultless style and had the satisfaction of being "not out" with a record of 59 runs, Mr. Milne also keeping him company with a contribution of 10. Mr. J. H. Thompson somewhat disappointed his backers by getting caught, instead of disposing of himself in the usual manner and at 5.30 p.m. the wickets were drawn the score standing at 172, with one wicket yet to go down. We must congratulate the long stop of the squadron on the fact that not one bye was allowed to pass, and the "Extras" were nearly all contributed by "Wides" most of the bowlers being very much out of practice. Mr. Stebbing, although he improved at the latter part of the game, was very much below his old form of two years ago, which may be accounted for by his not having played since May last. The fielding was generally very good; specially that of Mr. Groube who was instrumental in disposing of both Messrs. Dodds and Thompson by quick fielding. Mr. Farquhar revenged himself on Mr. Abbott by taking an exceedingly difficult catch close to the ground: indeed many thought that the ball was not fairly caught, but in these close shaves the umpire alone can judge.

The band of the *Iron Duke* was in attendance and played a well chosen selection of operatic and other music. The pavilion erected last year was filled to such an extent that we should not be surprised to see the cricket club enlarging the building.

We are sure all will look forward with great interest to the next match on the arrival of the cruising squadron.

The following are the scores:—

#### CHINA SQUADRON versus Y. C. C.

Lt. Neville, <i>Comus</i>	c. Sutter, b. Wheeler	4
Mr. Mitchell, do.	b. Wheeler	4
Mr. Moffett, <i>Curacao</i>	c. Duff, b. Abbott	0
Mr. Dormer, <i>Iron Duke</i>	b. Wheeler	7
Rev. Stebbing, do.	c. Dodds, b. Abbott	13
Lt. Warren, <i>Comus</i>	b. Wheeler	4
Mr. Farquhar, <i>Iron Duke</i>	c. Abbott, b. Duff	15
Lt. Elwyn, <i>Encounter</i>	c. Mollison, b. Duff	9
Lt. Groube, <i>Albatross</i>	c. Sutter, b. Abbott	20
Mr. Ethelstone, <i>Iron Duke</i>	not out	6
Lt. Tate, <i>Vigilant</i>	b. Duff	0

Byes	8
Leg Byes	7
Wides	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>

Total..... 107

#### BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	Balls.	Runs.	Maiden	Over.	Wickets.	Wides.
Wheeler.....	85	34	3	4	5	
Abbott.....	105	19	11	4	3	
Sutter.....	25	11	2	0	1	
Duff.....	69	5	11	3	0	
Moberly.....	20	13	0	0	1	

#### YOKOHAMA CRICKET CLUB.

Veitch ...	...b. Stebbing	...	...	30
Mollison ...	...c. Dormer, b. Warren	...	...	3
Wheeler ...	...b. Moffett	...	...	9
Durant ...	...c. Mitchell, b. Moffett	...	...	14
Duff ...	...not out	...	...	59
Sutter ...	...c. Warren, b. Stebbing	...	...	12
Dodds ...	...run out	...	...	3

Abbott ...	...c. Farquhar, b. Stebbing	...	...	1
Moberly ...	...b. Moffett	...	...	1
J. H. Thompson, c. Groube, b. Mitchell	...	...	...	17
Milne ...	...not out	...	...	10
Leg bye...	...	...	...	9
Wides ...	...	...	...	13
<b>Total</b>	...	...	...	<b>172</b>

#### BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	Balls.	Runs.	Maiden	Wicket.	White
			over.		Balls.
Stebbing ...	180	54	14	3	1
Warren.....	25	14	—	1	2
Mitchell ...	65	22	2	1	5
Moffett.....	110	54	2	3	—
Dormer.....	5	3	—	—	3
Farquhar ...	10	10	—	—	—
Neville .....	5	2	—	—	1

### Occasional Notes.

HOWEVER much surprised the generality of foreign merchants may be at the persistent obstinacy of the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho in upholding its regulations for sale of silk, we ourselves, onlookers and therefore impartial, are by no means surprised. It is matter of vital importance to the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho to hold out strenuously and determinedly against the foreign resolve not to purchase under present conditions: to do all in its power to induce its constituents, the producers in the interior, to believe that their interests lie in upholding it; and that ruin and degradation will ensue to the commerce of Japan if foreign merchants' opposition results in victory. We say it is of vital importance to this company because if its constituents were in a body to demand silks entrusted to it for sale, where would those constituents have to go to look for them? Would the owners find all their silks in the custody of this celebrated, honourable, and high-minded Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho? Or would they possibly find the greater portion under lien to foreign banks, partly stored in the settlement guarded by the custodians who are secret agents of the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho, but ostensibly custodians for the protection of money advanced by foreign banks? We do not wish to say expressly that any or all these silks that have been recently empawned to foreign banks by the Shokin-ginko, or its congener the Boyeki Shokwai, are silks that have been sent down to the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho for sale but as we know the Shokin-ginko is not of itself interested in commercial enterprises because such transactions are contrary to the laws of Japan, we presume that the silks stored by it in the foreign settlement belong to somebody else who have intrusted them to the safe keeping of this native bank.

The Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho appears before its own countymen as having sufficient funds to maintain the monopoly of the silk trade in Yokohama, and to satisfy, by paper advances, the owners and producers of silk. This, however, is only one side of the question, and the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho has probably not deceived silk producers in any way so far as their power of supply of paper money is concerned; but it certainly has not been able to carry out the other side of its obligation of procuring specie for the suppliers of the paper advanced in the quantities expected; hence comes to pass the recent empawning of silks to foreign banks by the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho, its members or supporters; and that we hear daily of further attempts to pledge more silk for specie.

Should the present dead lock continue owners of silk, growing impatient for the realisation of their property, will want to know where their silk is; and they may find to their astonishment that to release it in order that real sales may be effected they will have to refund in specie the advances received in paper, the value of the latter having declined very considerably since the advances were made.

We recommend the people of the country districts to visit Yokohama occasionally, if they are not too much afraid of the foreigner, and "interview" their silks. It is a wise precaution, to the exercise of which the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho can not object.

The quotation for kinsatsu to-day is nominally 180, the decline having followed the establishment of the Rengo Kiito Ni Adzukurisho.

THE *Choya Shinbun* says:—"A few days ago we stated that foreigners who were much dissatisfied with the establishment of the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho, had convened a meeting and had passed a resolution not to buy any silk whatever from it. We are now informed by the guild that if foreign merchants carry their purpose into effect, our traders will "take a leaf out of their book" and combine to abstain from purchasing goods of any description from foreigners. What will be the result of this discord?"

THE same journal remarks that Messrs. Itagaki and Furusawa, with other members of the Liberal (!) party in the province of Yamato, propose to buy the plant of the *Osaka Nippo* from its present proprietors, Messrs. Nishikawa and Fujita, at the cost of 12,000 yen, and to devote the paper to the advocacy of the people's rights under the new name of the *Kwansei Jiji Shinbun*.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun*, in publishing a report of the meeting of foreign merchants and the resolutions adopted by them, winds up with the following remarks:—"Thus foreign houses have passed a resolution and have stopped their transactions. The Rengo Ni Adzukurisho after mature deliberation, deemed it advisable to answer the letter (of Mr. Wilkin) in a conciliatory tone as they have never desired to cause trouble, and they have accordingly done so. We have not yet heard the result, but we have reason to believe that a compromise will be effected."

THE *Hochi Shinbun* has the following items:—

A few *Kwazoku*, who are said to be ex-daimio of the western provinces, have drawn up a petition to be submitted to H. I. M. the Mikado immediately on his return protesting against the Kaitakushi job.

THE proposed railway between Tokio and Takasaki has been finally decided on and will be shortly commenced. Tokio-fu, Saitama-ken, and Gumma-ken having made liberal concessions of land to the railway company, offices will be established in each of them for the transaction of business.

A MEETING of the shareholders of the Nippon Tetsudo Kwaisha was held in the Tokio National Bank on the 25th. ult., at which were present Messrs. Hayashi, Yasukawa, Toyohara, Takashima, Shoda, &c. amounting in all to a total of 79 persons. Mr. Yasukawa was unanimously voted to the chair. Draft regulations of the company were discussed as well as the survey and estimated cost of the

proposed line from Tokio to Awomori. Only one resolution had been passed when the meeting adjourned in the evening. Its proceedings were continued yesterday.

PRINCE Higashi Fushimi-no-miya has recently been appointed to carry out the arrangements for receiving the sons of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

We are given to understand that the project to form a local company or association for the insurance of Bluff property against fire at somewhat lower rates than those charged by the home offices, is meeting with the most encouraging approval. Owners of property on the Bluff representing a value of about \$250,000, have already signified their intention to support the undertaking; and the promoters hope their scheme will meet with general approval when the details are made public.

Any news of a desire to help ourselves gives rise to satisfaction. We are a large community, but we have no company or association of our own for any purpose, a circumstance much to be regretted, for we pay annually vast sums of money without participating, in the smallest degree, in the benefits that money confers upon the receivers.

An agreement binding the signatories not to purchase silk under the conditions imposed by the Rengo Kiito Ni Adzukurisho, was circulated on the 21st. ult. and signed by a large majority of merchants and silk inspectors.

RUMOUR is again busy with official changes of importance, and we give the report as circulated amongst Japanese to-day. H. E. Sanjo is about to retire, to be succeeded by Prince Arisugawa-no-miya as Daijo-daijin: H. E. Iwakura is also said to contemplate the resignation of his office after twelve years of arduous labour; his successor, it is anticipated, will be Mr. Saionji, a kuwazoku who resided in France for some years and became proprietor of the *Jiyu Shinbun* on his return to Japan, a newspaper of liberal sentiments as its title imports, and which was discontinued, after a few numbers had been issued, at the solicitations of earnest friends. Whether the post of Sa-daijin will be filled up should Prince Arisugawa take the highest post in the ministry is unknown. Probably it will, as in past years, remain open.

If these rumoured changes should come to pass a more liberal policy may be looked for; and expressions of gratification are to be heard amongst the well-informed at the prospect.

A MEETING was held at 4 p.m. on 22nd. ult. at the Chamber of Commerce and was very numerously attended. Mr. Wilkin in the chair, at which it was decided that copies of the agreement not to purchase silks through the Rengo Kiito Ni Adzukurisho, and the names of the signatories to that document should be sent to all the native papers and disseminated in the Japanese language throughout the country.

We understand that arrangements have been come to varying the recent kerosine notification in two most material particulars. The date at which it will come into force is to be September 1st., 1882; and the flashing point is to be 115° Fah. instead of 120. This news will be hailed with satisfaction.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* says that according to a correspondent from Kobe cholera has begun to prevail in that town, and from the 8th. to the 13th instant, fourteen persons were attacked by the epidemic, of whom six died and eight are still under medical treatment; the cases were very severe, death taking place within four hours after the first appearance of the symptoms. Officials of the sanitary board, of the Kencho, and others are making great but ineffectual efforts to prevent the further spread of the disease.

THE *Mai Nichi Shinbun* hears that His Imperial Majesty the Mikado will return to the capital about 11th. inst.

THE same paper says:—We have already referred to the dissatisfaction felt by foreign houses towards the Kiito Ni Adzukurisho since its establishment; since then they have held several meetings and after prolonged discussion drawn the circular which has been printed and distributed in Yokohama. A translation of the circular is then given.

THE *Hochi Shinbun* has the following:—Some gentlemen who have watched recent transactions in silk, the chief article of our export trade, and who have regretted that our merchants should be under the control of foreigners by whom they have been deprived of their commercial rights and have been prevented from securing profits properly belonging to us, consulted amongst themselves with a view to regaining such commercial rights and to protect the silk trade from loss. The result of their deliberations has been the establishment of the Rengo Kiito ni Adzukurisho at Yokohama thus aiming at the arbitrary conduct of foreigners. The rules of the guild, as published in the newspapers, not only deal very kindly with our silk merchants but are even very accommodating (?) to foreigners with whose commercial rights they do not seem to interfere. (Don't they? Read between the lines Mr. *Hochi Shinbun*!—Ed. J. G.) But whether these rules are inconvenient or not to foreigners who intend to pocket the entire profits, they have expressed great dissatisfaction at them. They held a meeting at the German Club on the night of the 20th. inst., over which Mr. A. J. Wilkin presided, and fully discussed the subject. A letter was addressed by the chairman, on behalf of the meeting, to the Kiito Ni Adzukurisho. (Here follows a translation of the letter and resolution). The following notice, signed by Bavier & Co. and thirty-three other firms was sent to every silk merchant and also published in the papers.

(Translation of notice.)

In the above, the words *improper* and *arbitrary* are used, but what is meant by them? Perhaps they will feel ashamed when they reflect on their own position. Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. and Strachan & Co. did not use these terms, but implied them without consideration, in a notice which they circulated amongst our merchants who ought to be neither frightened nor dismayed by such threats. (Very good Mr. *Hochi Shinbun*; you'll do! No. doubt you have been well paid for this precious paragraph. You and someone we wot of are well matched.—Ed J.G.)

THE *Choya Shinbun* of yesterday gives the following intelligence from Hakodate:—For some cause or another Messrs. Yamamoto and Kudo of the righteous party (i. e. the party who are opposed to the Kaitakushi Job—Ed. J. G.) in Hakodate, were taken into custody

by the police on the 19th. inst.; on the next day Messrs. Inokuchi, Sugihara, Hayashi, Ishida, Ono, Ishikawa, Makita, &c., and to-day (21st. instant) about 80 or 90 were arrested. The town is in an uproar and policemen are posted in each street for the purpose of examining persons passing to and fro. It seems as if the people are oppressed to death. The cause of these prompt measures on the part of the police is said to be persistent applications for the purchase of official property. Further information will be published when received.

We are authorized to state, in correction of the inference that may be drawn from the paragraph in the *Japan Mail* of 27th. ultimo, that the signatories of the resolution passed at the German Club on the 20th. instant, do not regard the reply of the Rengo Kiito Ni adzukurisho as in any sense conciliatory, or as anything else than an evasion of the points succinctly but clearly impressed upon its members by Mr. Wilkin in his letter of the 21st. instant, a copy of which will be found in another column.

That indignation should be felt by foreign merchants at a reply which merely shelves their request in order to substitute another, namely, that foreigners should indicate, one by one, the points in the purely nominal rules to which they object, when it is well known that the real rules upon which the company acts are kept secret and dare not be disclosed, is only right and proper; and we emphatically protest against any assumption that the members of the Rengo Kiito Ni adzukurisho have extended even ordinary courtesy to foreign merchants in their reply to Mr. Wilkin. Further, it cannot too soon be understood that foreign merchants have now made a stand from which they have not the most remote intention of receding; and that all attempts to bring about a compromise merely involve a waste of time and labour.

Japanese must learn how to do business in a proper manner, before presuming to dictate to those of infinitely greater experience as to the manner in which silk shall be bought and sold. The action of the Rengo Kiito Ni adzukurisho has not a single defender; and the evasive reply to Mr. Wilkin only serves the bad purpose of widening the already wide breach in commercial relations which have hitherto been friendly if not satisfactory.

AFTER several postponements a new halfpenny daily paper has made its appearance in London. The new candidate for fame and fortune is styled the *Evening News*. In size and "make-up" it is like the *Echo* but printed on a very unpleasant blue-coloured paper. The rage for distinctive hues of papers may be carried too far; because yellow is tolerated in the *Echo* and pink in the *Globe*, it by no means follows that the public will put up with tints which are trying to the eyes. All the morning papers are printed on white paper, or at least what is intended for it, and there seems to be no reason why evening journals should not be so too. It is to be hoped for the sake of those interested that the new venture may be successful, though the career of halfpenny papers have not, in many instances, been remarkably triumphant; the price seems too low to command success however much it may be deserved. Many halfpenny provincial speculations have, mushroom-like, sprung up in a night and disappeared as rapidly. The London *Hour* had a very shortlived existence and the *Echo*, although supposed to be a flourishing concern has changed hands three times. It was first started by Messrs. Cassell,

Petter and Galpin and by them transferred to the famous Baron Grant after they had considerably burnt their fingers by it. Baron Grant did not fare much better and very soon handed it over to its present proprietor Mr. Passmore Edwards M. P. for Salisbury whose political importance it may increase, but is not believed to add very materially to his income. The *Birmingham Daily Mail* is said to be an exception to the rule and to secure large profits to its projectors. Whether this is the case or not is difficult to prove, as it is published as a kind of evening abridgment of the *Daily Post*, a morning paper sold at one penny. All things considered, halfpenny journalism is risky and ought to be well considered before embarked in.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *St. James's Gazette* whom that paper characterises as 'well-informed,' writing upon a reported difficulty between England and China on the opium question, says:—

"It appears that a draft of a treaty was lately 'drawn up between the Chinese Government' and Sir Thomas Wade, according to which 'China agreed to open three more ports to foreign commerce, provided she were allowed to levy any duties she pleased on imported opium. The treaty was sent to England for approval, and the Chinese Government, in the belief that there would be no difficulty in the matter, opened the ports in question at once. The English Government, however, refuses to enter into such an arrangement; and the Chinese Government will therefore very probably close the ports again. I have been told that England may, if she has not already done so, object to the ports being closed, as the Chinese had no right to take it for granted that the English Government would agree to the conditions. How the controversy will end I cannot say; but this much I may venture upon: that the opium trade is, in my opinion, doomed, and the sooner the British public realizes that fact the better it will be for India. China will before very long demand a revision of the treaty; and unless England is prepared to go to war with her imported opium will be so heavily taxed as to exclude it altogether from China."

This 'well-informed' writer, as it happens, turns out to be most decidedly ill-informed. A reference to an article on the Chefoo convention, contained in our issue of 16th. July last, will show the actual state of the case. As to closing the ports and places of call the words of Prince Kung, then quoted by us, show that the Chinese have no intention of doing anything of the kind. The natives of the "Flowery Land" are not so averse to intercourse with foreigners as people at home imagine them to be; it is quite time the idea was exploded. In future the *St. James's Gazette* had better be careful of pinning its faith on the utterances of 'well-informed' correspondents.

THE *Akebono Shinbun* gives a short account of the meeting recently held at the German Club and after referring to the resolution circulated in Yokohama takes exception to the words "improper" and "arbitrary" which were contained in it. "Why are these terms used?" asks the *Akebono Shinbun*, "To assert their determination to destroy the combination entered into by our merchants which is inconvenient to them. This is the usual style of threats indulged in by foreigners; but we hope Japanese merchants will be prepared to resort to measures which will put an effectual stop to their menaces." (Go ahead Mr.

*Akebono Shinbun*: give us some more of the same sort. It pleases the guild and won't hurt the greedy, grasping, obnoxious foreigners. If it is a fair question to ask, have you received from the guild, or someone else, who pulls your strings an order "increasing the number of copies"? The tone of the native papers on the silk question would be unbearable if it was not pitiable—pitiable because of the vile censorship under which they are held, through which they can only speak as they are prompted, and by which all freedom of thought and expression are crippled. It is a pity Japanese journalists and their censors cannot be supplied with a correct translation of J. S. Mill's essay *On Liberty*.—Ed. J. G.]

THE same paper says in another paragraph: "For a few days after the establishment of the Rengo Kiito Ni Adzukurisho foreign merchants had some dealings with it, but being unable to secure all the profit to themselves they entered into a compact to discontinue the purchase of silk from the guild under a penalty of \$2,000."

A REMARK made by Mr. Moberly at the close of the silk merchants' meeting at the Club Germania respecting the insecurity, or perhaps unsatisfactoriness of the banker's lien on silk stored in the premises of the Rengo Kiito Niadzukurisho, opens a grave question which may well be raised in a commercial community. The Rengo Kiito Niadzukurisho is, as its name imports, a warehousing company which undertakes to hold and sell silk entrusted to it for those purposes. It is, therefore, a custodian or trustee only, and has no power to hypothecate the silk entrusted to its charge for advances made thereon. The Shokin-ginko is in the same position: it is not the owner, but the mortgagee of silk deposited with it. The same principle applies to all national banks who are pledgees (if the term is admissible) of silk on which advances have been made by them.

It is, we believe, an indisputable fact that some of these institutions have of late entrusted silk to foreign houses in the settlement for storage; and that on the godown delivery order some of our financiers have made advances to a considerable extent.

With the merits of such transactions it is not our province to deal; but we are justified in pointing out what we conceive to be a serious danger which has apparently not been sufficiently recognized. A is the owner of silk deposited with B as security for certain advances in paper. B finding the sale of A's silk and consequent repayment of advances slower than he anticipated, is obliged to look elsewhere for money, and applies to C, a foreign financier, who agrees to advance to B on consideration of B depositing with D, a foreign merchant, a sufficient quantity of silk to cover the loan. B agrees to this, and sends in to D the silk belonging to A, receiving from C an advance in specie. Time rolls on; currency exchange grows worse and worse; the realisation of the silk becomes more and more difficult. Finally, A resolves upon repayment of his advances to B, and to withdraw his security. The advance, for argument's sake, we put down at 100,000 yen, worth when made \$62,000, the sum advanced by C to B. The decline in exchange which has taken place obliges B to provide 115,000 yen to take up his loan with C, which he is unable to do. In the meantime, A demands his silk, and is told it is in the custody of D under lien to C for advances made by him to B. D is an Englishman, and the questions well worthy of consideration before they arise, are:—What would be the position of C if A, the owner of silk pledged

by B to C without A's knowledge or consent, should bring an action against D to compel him to deliver the silk to the lawful owner?

Possession is said to equal nine points of the law; but there is such a thing as wrongful hypothecation; and in the supposititious case cited we have no doubt whatever that an action by the *cestui que trust* against D would be unanswerable, while C would find, but too late, that his "security" never had an existence.

There are numerous cases where the fiduciary, acting towards C with the best intentions, may be unable to fulfil his obligations, or to satisfy the owner of the silk. We have instanced exchange as the most likely cause under the present aspect of affairs, but in any case C has no claim whatsoever to A's silk for advances made by C to B; and D, in the eye of the law, would be regarded by a competent court as custodian for A, to whom delivery of the silk would be decreed. What *locus standi* C would have in an action by A against D we cannot conceive; it passes comprehension.

THE fluctuations in paper during the last few days have been of a most distracting character, three and four per cent. within a few hours marking the revulsions of feeling in regard to the action of the Rengo Kiito Niadzukurisho and the resolute opposition shown by foreign merchants. Yesterday the buying rate for specie was 180 for small lots; to-day, we understand fair amounts are offered at 176; and there are other evidences to lead to the belief that speculation in money is again rife and is likely to be fraught with disastrous consequences to producers and those people who, *bona fide*, have merchandise to sell or buy.

On inquiry late this afternoon we found current a report supposed to have been spread by the "exchange ring" to the effect that the Rengo Kiito Niadzukurisho had resolved to abandon if not the whole the most important of the restrictions sought to be imposed on foreign silk purchasers; and to revert to the former system of sending in silk to foreign silk godowns for inspection. This report has no foundation so far as foreign merchants know; and it merely serves to show the tricks to which speculators resort to create factitious values for currency. The Japanese press on one hand heap all sorts of invective on foreigners for their opposition (insolent, of course) to the Rengo Kiito Niadzukurisho, and prophecy their eventual discomfiture; on the other hand, the "exchange ring" busily circulates stories that the Rengo Kiito Niadzukurisho is already worsted in the conflict (so-called) and is about to dissolve.

Is it possible that the whole affair has been a speculative dodge? Of course, the trade, impressed by a belief that if the Rengo Kiito Niadzukurisho should dissolve, silk will be bought largely, looks to the strong probability of an advance in the value of kinsatsu, and many will be induced, on those premises, to operate in time bargains to their great loss, and the certain gain of the confederates.

That the rumour has some colour is shown by a paragraph in the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* of to-day, which announces that the dead lock offers no opening for a peaceful solution, consequently the Rengo Kiito Niadzukurisho will probably dissolve and set its members free to conduct their silk business as before. In a note in our issue of the 17th. we stated that the rules of this association presented to the public were one thing, and the secret rules another. The rules as published are not improper nor very unreasonable in themselves, but the secret rules are of a character that

renders their disclosure impossible. Under such circumstances, a dissolution of the company is a very improbable event, for should it be followed by an exposure of the secret springs of action the foundation of any other company in Japan will be effectually prevented by the force of public opinion.

THE *China Mail*, in its issue of the 6th. ult., refers to the presence in Hongkong of Mr. E. J. Durney who, from a book of criticisms compiled from English, Australian, and American papers, appears to be an organist of a very high order of merit. This gentleman is now in Yokohama and might be prevailed upon to give an organ recital in the Church in aid of the fund now in process of being raised. Apart from the imperative nature of the object, to adopt the words of our Hongkong contemporary, "it will be a cause for much regret to all lovers or admirers of the works of the great masters if he should be allowed to depart without some opportunity being given to them of listening to an exhibition of his great ability." Musical treats, such as Mr. Durney evidently can afford, are "few and far between" in this *Ultima Thule* of civilization, and we would therefore strongly recommend the Church Committee to endeavour to secure the services of this gentleman in the way we have suggested.

ON the 21st. ultimo much surprise was expressed at the tone of an article in the *Japan Mail* in reference to the meeting at the Club Germania, wherein the writer made just and forcible denunciation of the lax principles of honour and integrity displayed by Japanese merchants in their dealings with foreigners. Some of the incredulous did not hesitate to say that want of time precluded the usual consultation, and that the article in question might lead to the withdrawal of the subscriptions of the foreign office. For the *Japan Mail* to appear as an accuser of Japanese, whatever their station of life, was a new rôle; and speculation was rife as to the possibility of republication of the spirited note of the 21st. in the following weekly edition of the paper. Beta of two to one were freely offered against the weekly, and five to one against the mail edition repeating the article; and the layers of the odds have won.

The fact is, the daily paper is published for Yokohama alone. It never goes abroad, and what it contains is immaterial so long as the few foreign subscribers are satisfied. The *Japan WEEKLY Mail* is, however, a different journal; and it is clear that the insertion of such an article as that alluded to, and the subscription of the Japanese foreign office to the paper containing it, would be incompatible. Steps were therefore taken to avoid the dilemma, and readers of the *Japan WEEKLY Mail* abroad will be in happy ignorance of the strictures of the *Japan DAILY Mail* in Yokohama on the commercial morality of the Japanese. This is as it should be; one good turn deserves another.

REUTER'S agent makes an announcement that will be received with much satisfaction. On and after the 1st. October Reuter's Company will place their most comprehensive telegraph codes at the disposal of the public for a consideration of thirty cents per code word used in addition to the ordinary telegraph rates. Merchants and bankers have more or less complete codes of their own; but the general public, travellers, shipmasters, and others are not so fortunate, and as communication by telegraph is fast becoming a necessity we have pleasure in calling attention to the

valuable assistance Reuter's Company offer for the transmission of messages.

Non-business people are not conversant with the difficulties attendant upon the transmission of messages in ordinary words. The cost being measured by the number of words, senders frequently curtail their messages until they become unintelligible to the receiver, and form in themselves traps for the telegraph operators, there being abundant instances of grave mistakes from this cause. A comprehensive code is therefore invaluable.

THE *Japan DAILY Mail* mentions a rumour to the effect that a distinguished member of the *corps diplomatique* is about to transfer his services to a law court, and to assist the Japanese in the administration of the new code which is to come into force next year.

The opportunity thus afforded for a little gentle gush is not lost; nor is the occasion neglected for the expression of one of those firm and honest convictions for which this thoroughly independent journal is celebrated. The "conviction" this time will probably surprise the Japanese as much as the article on native commercial morality did. Can the *Daily Mail* be serious in its belief that this country can only hope to secure competent administration of justice by the appointment of foreign judges? What! Japan not fit to administer her own laws without the aid of foreign judges? Monstrous! What will the foreign office say to this, if it appears in the *WEEKLY Mail*? This is probably the last blow the *Mail* should have inflicted upon the honour of this country: to announce to the world that the middle classes of Japan are unfit to perform the functions of jurymen which are transferred to a bench of five judges in causes of unusual importance, was sufficiently injurious to the nation's reputation; but the damage is now made complete by a declaration that "the law officers of this country have proved distinctly that of judicial spirit they possess scarcely the most insignificant measure."

How, in the name of common sense, are these extraordinary declarations to be reconciled with the same writer's persistent denunciation of the extra-territorial rights enjoyed by foreigners? Perhaps some answer will be vouchsafed to an astonished public to explain how it is possible to advocate the curtailment of rights affecting the liberty and property of foreigners when the administration of justice by the nation seeking to obtain jurisdiction over them is confessedly impossible or wholly untrustworthy unless foreign judges be employed.

THE betting is ten to one against the republication of the "foreign judge" paragraph in the papers subscribed for by the Japanese government.

WE have no intention of disputing the assertion that it is not every lexicographer who could write an exhaustive definition of a judge as he exists in the west, for the simple reason that it is not a lexicographer's business to attempt it; and the more so as the *Japan DAILY Mail* has itself given us a remarkable definition which we extract for the benefit of our readers.

"He is a man whose inheritance of integrity is something no system can beget; a man whose ancestors have lived in

'A land of settled government,  
A land of just and old renown  
Where freedom broadens slowly down  
From precedent to precedent.'"

It appears such a man is to be found in the *corps diplomatique*; a man of "unswerving impartiality which creed cannot sway nor faction deflect, which 'cuts prejudice against the grain,' and toils not for 'title, place, or touch of pension.'"

If such a man is to be found in Japan he will, of course, give his services to the nation gratuitously; or, at all events, as he cannot possibly have an eye to a pension which he will abandon on retiring from the service of his own country, he will not venture to ask for any higher remuneration than he at present receives from a grateful nation. If it should come to pass that judicial appointments of foreigners are to be made to the Japanese courts, would it not be well to select men in active practice of the law, and of reputation for legal acquirements which should secure for them general respect and confidence. There may, of course, be members of the *corps diplomatique* fully competent for judicial preferment; but as we do not know of such any our remarks have no personal tendency.

WE observe in the *Hochi Shinbun* an announcement that a competitive exhibition of silk will be shortly held at Mayebashi; and the *Japan Mail* alludes to several others as on the tapis.

WE have now much pleasure in announcing that foreigners resident in Yokohama are about to organize a grand exhibition of silk, with a view to stimulate the chief producers and dealers to greater exertion in the future. An extensive building will be erected, and in handsome glazed cases will be displayed specimens of the muster parcels upon which sales have been effected; and in close proximity will be exhibited large parcels of the bulk when delivered.

This novel idea is one our Japanese friends should follow out in their own exhibitions; for, in addition to the encouragement it will give to the trade, it will serve to show how sales are conducted; while the ingratitude of the foreign merchant in grumbling at the contrast between the sample and bulk as delivered to him will be exposed in all its abominable selfishness.

Japanese papers please copy.

ANOTHER exhibition is contemplated but not yet publicly announced. We hear from a high source that the government are so pleased with the services rendered to the state by certain distinguished financiers who have lately tendered disinterested advice, that a proposition is being considered which, if carried out, will meet with general approval.

These gentlemen will sit in glass cases in the great exhibition building in Ueno park, for six hours daily for a month or two; and the people will thus have an opportunity they are not likely to enjoy again of observing the style, manner, complexion, and all other the attributes of the distinguished financiers, to whom this country is so deeply indebted. To add to the value of the exhibition some of these gentlemen will give, at intervals, illustrations of their skill; and the delighted spectators may behold with what ease a parcel of printed paper may be changed into gold or silver, with no other media than a few bales of silk, or a few piculs of tea. By another process, will be shown the elaborate experiment known as the "Transposition of Wealth." Three persons are necessary parties to this trick. A, producer and owner of one hundred bales of silk; B, a foreigner, with fifty thousand silver dollars in hand; C, a member of the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho with eighty thousand



pretty little new crisp yen-satsu. The chief financier, by a rapid movement of hand will effect a complete transfer, and almost before the brilliancy of the experiment has passed, A will find himself minus his silk but plus the eighty thousand pretty little new crisp yen-satsu: B's fifty thousand dollars will have disappeared, but lo! he will have the one hundred bales of silk, to form a fair equivalent: C, with deep regret, will have lost the pretty little new crisp yen-satsu, but may gaze with rapture upon the pile of silver dollars into which they have been transmuted.

At the close of this experiment a short lecture will be delivered, proving to every body's satisfaction that the changed position benefits every one, especially A.

Several other highly interesting experiments will be performed; and, in fact, the exhibition promises to be so successful that to secure the safety of the spectators, and prevent over crowding, no individual will be admitted more than three times. N.B. Nothing but silver will be taken at the doors.

*Hochi and Choya please copy.*

THE *Mainichi Shinbun* hears that the cabinet has decided that the properties of the Kaitakushi shall be sold on the conditions already settled.

THE *Choya Shinbun* says that the price of dollars having recently risen extraordinarily in consequence of stagnation in the silk trade, it is currently reported that the government intend to interpose. It is therefore expected that a great change will shortly take place in the value of kinsatsu.

THE same paper says that a telegram from Kioto announces that Princess Katsurano Miya is dangerously ill.

The *Chugai Bukka Shinpo* has the following item:—"In our last issue we attributed the recent rise in the price of specie to an overplus of imports, but omitted to state how much such imports amounted to. We shall here give a rough account of the same from 1st. June to 15th. September in this year as compared with the corresponding period in 1880, in order to prove the correctness of our opinion:—

	1881.	1880.
Nature of Import.	Amount.	Amount.
	Catties.	Catties.
Cotton Yarn..	7,330,000	6,700,000
Sugar.....	15,160,000	9,290,000
	Piculs.	Piculs.
Shirtings.....	402,900	358,100
Camlets.....	10,500	7,000
Muslin.....	109,000	58,600
Cloth.....	19,000	5,000
Velvet, &c....	58,300	52,800
	Catties.	Catties.
Iron.....	5,480,000	2,690,000
	Cases.	Cases.
Kerosene oil..	232,000	158,000

In some miscellaneous articles a decrease is observed; but the chief articles of import have all more or less increased in quantity during the present year. With respect to silk and tea, the two principal items in our export trade in the same period we find the following:—

	1881.	1880.
Silk ...	688,000 catties.	606,000 catties.
Tea ...	8,172,000 "	10,184,000 "

In these figures an increase of over 80,000 catties will be observed in silk exports whilst tea has decreased by over two million catties.

Our total export trade has therefore sustained some decrease whilst import trade has enjoyed a proportionate increase. Demand for silver has also increased which need cause no surprise, but may be taken simply as a logical consequence.

The *Japan Mail* (daily) makes an assertion of a peculiar character. It warns the public against the misrepresentations of a contemporary respecting a portion of the secret rules of the Kiito Niadzukarisho recently published; and avers the rules are not secret, nor are they a portion of any such. The fact is, the rules in question were never intended to be disclosed until it was known that a copy or copies had been given away, or perhaps surreptitiously taken. No communication touching these rules was made to Mr. Wilkin, or to foreign merchants, a formality thought worthy of observance on a former occasion. We have very strong authority for asserting that the object of the silk combination being purely to obtain specie by means of the three-cornered process of buying silk for paper and realising it for silver, the real rules are necessarily secret. We ask for nothing stronger to support this assertion than clauses numbers, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 13, and 14, of the rules published on the 28th. August.

RUMOURS have been afloat for some few weeks past touching the formation of a local fire insurance company for the protection of Bluff property owners; and we now call attention to the advertisement containing the memorandum of association descriptive of the objects of the undertaking.

Recent private reference to one of the directors of a first class home office as to the probability of the rates on the Bluff being reduced and equalised with risks of equal quality elsewhere, elicited a reply which our correspondent describes as an unanswerable argument. "If, said the director, 'the good people of Yokohama believed the rates now charged are in excess of the risk undertaken by the home offices, they would form a company of their own.' There is undeniable force in this remark; and it is gratifying to find that a company is projected which promises to be established on a sound basis, and to supply a long felt want.

The chief promoters met yesterday and passed a series of resolutions, the more important of which we may refer to. Before any risks are accepted the directors of the company will take the opinion of Mr. Lowder, barrister-at-law, respecting their liability, which is, as the memorandum of association states, to be limited to the funds and subscribed capital of the company. That this limitation can be secured by special contract need not be doubted; and while the shareholders will receive indispensable protection the assured will have ample security in the funds and capital. To appreciate the sufficiency of the security offered reference must be made to the data upon which the promoters rely. During the past thirteen years the recorded losses on the Bluff have not exceeded an average of \$1,300 per annum; and it is well known that had the precautions which the new company proposes to take, in placing hand fire engines at various stations on the Bluff, been adopted earlier the losses would have been much lighter. With care in selection of its risks this company should be prosperous: it is not prematurely formed, for no better guide to probabilities can be had than the actual experience of so long a period of time. The company will, of course, limit its liability on single risks; and we understand

provision has been made to prevent great liability from an accumulation of risks which may be within the range of one fire of even exceptional magnitude. At the preliminary meeting nearly one-fifth of the total number of shares was taken up and upon the requisite number of applications for shares being received, a general meeting of shareholders will be called to approve the articles of association, receive counsel's opinion, and consider other important matters in connection with the business. The rates for insurance will be, we believe, somewhere about one-half those at present payable; and some discretion is to be exercised in connection with the class of building and its surroundings; that is, the hard and fast rule of arbitrary classification now in use will be subjected to practical modification.

The large sums annually paid to foreign insurance offices has often raised the question of advisability of starting a company of our own; and if the attempt now made is on a very humble scale we must remember that to small beginnings some of the largest companies owe their present prosperity.

Every movement, we repeat, which has a tendency to make this community a little more self-reliant, will be hailed with real satisfaction; for the apathy of the public to all matters concerning their welfare has been truly deplorable.

It is always gratifying to have to record acknowledgments made to masters of vessels for services rendered to the cause of humanity. Captain H. Thomsen, of the German barque *Carl*, on her last voyage from Nagasaki to Yokohama, picked up twenty-nine men belonging to fishing boats lying in dangerous positions twenty-two miles off Cape King, on the 2nd September last when it was blowing a furious gale. The men were rescued with some difficulty, and brought to Yokohama. Captain Thomsen has received a letter, of which we append a translation, from Ed. Zappe, Esq., H. I. G. M. Consul, conveying the thanks of the Prefect of Kanagawa.

I have the honour to inform you that I brought the circumstance of the saving of the lives of 29 wrecked Japanese seafishers on your last voyage from Nagasaki to Yokohama to the knowledge of H. I. G. M. Prefect, and have been requested by the said official to express to you his warmest thanks for your unselfish and noble help, given to his countrymen in their dangerous situation.

In addition to the pleasure of being the medium of this communication, I will add that H.E. the Prefect advised me that he would not fail to inform the imperial government of the particulars of the incident.

(Signed) ZAPPE,  
H. I. G. M. Consul.

A MEETING of foreign merchants was held at the Chamber of Commerce at 4 p.m. yesterday (29th Sept). There was a full attendance of all in any way interested in silk, and perfect unanimity prevailed.

The result of the meeting was an emphatic affirmation to uphold in its entirety the declaration recently signed and sent to the newly formed native silk association, not to purchase silk under the rules and regulations of the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho; and the appointment of a committee to undertake and initiate any measures which may be considered advisable for a proper understanding between silk producers and foreign buyers.

The committee consists of Messrs. A. J. Wilkin, Tom Thomas, and E. de Bavier, with power to add to their number.

In another column will be found a translation of some private rules agreed upon by the members of the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho. These rules are dated September, while those forwarded to foreign merchants were framed in the month previous. Those interested in the question will now have an opportunity of examining a portion of the secret rules. We say a portion, for of the rules of the company only the original exists which is carefully guarded, and of which no copy is allowed to be taken.

The *Mai Nichi Shinbun* says that the governor of Kanagawa-ken, after a consultation with Mr. Kawai, the head of the police in that ken, has decided to despatch one police sergeant and four constables to Nagahama, Miuragori and Sagami for the purpose of inspecting vessels bound for Yokohama which may call at Kobe and Osaka, with a view to the detection of cholera amongst passengers or crews. This measure is said to have been adopted in consequence of a telegram announcing the rapid spread of cholera in those cities.

The same paper asserts that the Rengo Kiito Ni-adzukurisho have borrowed 1,000,000 yen from the government as well as 750,000 yen from a certain bank. These sums, in conjunction with its subscribed capital, form a grand total of 1,850,000 yen.

The *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* says that His Imperial Majesty the Mikado will return to the capital at 2 p.m. on the 11th. October.

The *Akebono Shinbun* has the following items:—The time is at hand for the establishment of our long looked for national assembly. Thoughtful officials have commenced to advocate popular representation: meetings have been held in various places and memorials to government are being prepared praying for the establishment of such an assembly which is urgently demanded by the people. H. E. Iwakura who is now in Kioto, but who will return to the capital prior to the arrival of His Imperial Majesty the Mikado is said to be strongly in favor of the movement.

The *Hochi Shinbun* says that an international cotton exhibition will be held in Atlanta (?) America during the present year and that the commercial and agricultural department despatched some samples of our produce to that place the day before yesterday (28th. Sept.)

The same paper hears that forts will be built by the war department at Higashiura, Tsuruga, and Yechizen.

We were in error in stating that the Y.A.R. Club's boat competed in the last race of the Naval Regatta on Wednesday afternoon. The mistake, which was shared by the time-keeper on board the flag-ship, arose from the circumstance of the boat going round the course with those which were competing.

The *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* says that five palaces are about to be built in various parts of the country, two of which will be at Nijio castle, two at Osaka castle and will the other at Tsuruga castle. These palaces are intended for the accommodation of H. I. M. the Mikado when he visits those places, as well as for the reception of distinguished foreigners.

The same paper remarks that the agricultural, commercial, and judicial departments, the senate and the financial inspection office

have almost decided to send a memorial to the government protesting against the injustice of the Kaitakushi job.

The *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* has the following item:—Consuls and ministers of foreign countries are endeavouring, by arbitration, to effect an amicable settlement of the difficulty which has arisen between the Rengo Kiito Niadzukurisho and foreign merchants, but as yet they have not been able to make a compromise. The latter steadfastly insist on a return to the old system by which silk was sent to their houses where, after inspection, they invariably beat down the prices, first taking care to find out (by telegram) the ruling rates abroad. The former assert that they sustain heavy loss by this practice and give out that if it is forced on them they will never buy any kind of goods from foreigners. We hope the company will agree to reasonable terms and not pursue a rash policy which must produce a disastrous effect on foreign trade at large.

Our virtuous contemporary is inclined to think "there are some wicked dealers who secretly sell silk to foreigners and who ought to be severely punished for so doing."

People are asking themselves if it is really true that the national banks have been forbidden [by whom?] to make advances in the country to any silk producer against shipments of silk consigned to any other institution than the Rengo Kiito Niadzukurisho. We fear it is true; and that a resolute determination is arrived at to prevent foreigners purchasing a single bale of silk except through the twenty-six monopolists. What is the consequence? All internal trade is stopped.

The contest between the Rengo Kiito Niadzukurisho and foreign merchants shows no signs of relaxation. The former are apparently resolved to adhere to rules which they must by this time feel are unreasonable; and judging from the threats of direct export of the large stock on hand conveyed to foreigners through the medium of the subsidized organ, we are inclined to think one of the few trump cards in the hands of the native association has been played. Foreigners, on the other hand, seem to be growing daily more united, and, acting as they are now doing in concert, and on principle, there is little prospect of yielding on their side. No better evidences of firmness can be had than the last letter of the Silk Committee dated 30th. instant, and the following telegram forwarded by that committee in the name of the Chamber of Commerce to *The Times*, London, the Chamber of Commerce, Lyons, and the Silk Association, New York, on the 1st instant.

That message will ornament the bulletin boards of all exchanges and news rooms throughout Europe and the United States this (Monday) morning, and merchants interested in Japan silk well be informed,—

"SILK BUSINESS SUSPENDED BY NEW OPPRESSIVE CONDITIONS OF SALE IMPOSED BY JAPANESE GUILDS. FOREIGN BUYERS RESISTING."

This significant intimation will be thoroughly understood; and all orders for Yokohama will be held over waiting further information from here. The consequence will be, a suspension of foreign business; and the Rengo Kiito Niadzukurisho will find new opponents in Europe and the United States, who will certainly defer their silk requirements to the better judgment of their agents here. This telegram most effectually disposes of the silly, childish threat of direct export recently made. There is no reason whatever

why Japanese merchants may not ship at any time; should they do so foreigners might, and probably would, with great justice, prove to the producer that owing to business conditions, less commissions, easier finance, and, briefly, knowledge and experience, the foreign merchant here can always give more for silk than can be realised from direct shipments. Should the threat, which no conductor of a newspaper with a grain of business experience would have made, to ship the unsaleable stock lying on hand here be carried out, a second telegram would convey the gratify intelligence to London and elsewhere in terms somewhat as follows:—

"Japanese guild combination still continues. Business with foreigners suspended. Large shipments are being made on Japanese account, all of which require inspection and classification."

Not only would the four or five thousand bales of silk thus sent lie for months on the home markets, but the addition to the stock, and the knowledge of the state of affairs here, would cause a sudden fall in the price of Japan silk, and a blow would be dealt to the trade from which it would not recover for a considerable period.

Japanese, or rather the twenty-six monopolists who form the Rengo Kiito Niadzukurisho-Machigaisho, have relied upon the want of unity among foreigners; and, judging from their assumed victory in the iron hoop question, they thought there would be no defence to their present action. Combinations in trade are regarded with dislike by foreign merchants; but when forced into one in self defence the question is whether the Japanese shall be victorious, yield while they can do so without dishonour, or be ignominiously defeated and driven from the field. Time will decide.

The *Argus* of the 1st. inst. has the following items:—

A rumour, which requires confirmation, has reached us to the effect that H. I. M. the Mikado has had a very narrow escape of sharing the fate of the late President Garfield. On the occasion of his leaving Akita, when he had already embarked in the *Awamori-kan* a native fired at him and the bullet passed a few inches over his head. The would-be assassin is said to have been arrested. In consequence of this attempt His Imperial Majesty left suddenly and, travelling incognito, reached Tokio on the 29th. ult. Since that date a regiment under arms guards the palace day and night. The news has caused much sensation in the capital; it is supposed that the vernacular journals have been prohibited from publishing any particulars.

The flagstaff belonging to the Portuguese government lies on the ground close to the walls of Mr. Keswick's house. Instead of allowing it to rot there our consul ought to claim and sell it and apply the proceeds to the relief of distressed Portuguese subjects.

The same paper has a long article on the Rengo Kiito Niadzukurisho, in which the recent action of foreign merchants is strenuously supported.

The *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* writes as follows on the silk difficulty:—

The condition of the silk trade at Yokohama has assumed a serious aspect. Foreign

merchants held another meeting on the 28th. ultimo when they discussed a letter addressed by the president and directors of the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho to Mr. Wilkin, and passed a resolution to stand out against the establishment to the last.

The reason for this firmness on their part is, that the rules of the Adzukurisho interfere with their pockets by prohibiting the inspection of silk at their stores, and preventing them from receiving the 2.5% they formerly enjoyed on the amount of surplus in each bale.

Their measures are very decisive. They have resolved not to buy any silk from the Niadzukarisho; they have requested foreign banks to advance no sums whatever to Japanese dealers, and this request has been complied with; they have sent protests to the producing districts against the establishment of the Niadzukarisho and at the same time offered to negotiate with those producers who would deal with them independently of the guild; they have decided on sending agents to producing districts to buy silk and have promised not to take any goods on board foreign vessels for direct exportation.

Such are the measures taken by foreigners. The Niadzukarisho, on their part, intend to maintain their ground most strongly. The Koseki Gumi who contracted to sell eight bales of silk to foreigners, independently of the guild, has desisted from doing so.

The steps taken by Japanese to oppose foreigners are as follows:—The specie bank has raised the rate of exchange to an extraordinary degree, and has warned every native bank with which it has transactions that it has decided not to advance money for silk which is not consigned to the Niadzukarisho. The members of banks in Tokio, over fifty in number, have held a meeting and have also resolved not to advance any money whatever to silk producers and dealers who are not connected with the guild, and they have already proceeded to carry this resolution into effect. Native importers at Yokohama have resolved to stop all purchases from foreign merchants until the difficulty is settled.

Thus the case stands between both parties. The matter most gravely affects our commercial interests, and it may be said that the struggle now going on is the most desperate that has occurred since our ports were opened.

There are some traders in Tokio and in Yokohama who at first were opposed to the establishment of the Niadzukarisho, but when they understood its patriotic spirit, and saw that it was intended to put a stop to the arbitrary proceedings of foreigners and to regain our commercial rights they immediately abandoned their opposition. A difficulty has arisen between Japanese and foreigners and all have united to protect their common interests. Messrs. Shibusawa Kisaka, Hara Zenzaburo (Noso), (Mitsui Bussan Kwaisha), all being officials, are making every possible exertion, and Mr. Nakamura of the specie bank, and Mr. Horikoshi and other leading import dealers who respect national rights, think the present is the time for the people to insist on the privileges they have lost and have therefore most strenuously opposed the action of foreigners.

Thus banks and public companies even in Tokio are assisting in the enterprise; producers are certain to join it, as also ought all our countrymen who have pluck. Unless such a strong combination is secured no treaty revision, so long looked for, can be effected. Work hard! Work hard!

THE following is the reply of the committee of foreign merchants to the communication of the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho of 26th. ultimo.

Yokohama, 30th. Sept. 1881.

Messrs. SHIBUSAWA KISAKU,  
HARA ZENZABURO,  
MOGI SOBEI,  
ASAFUKI YEJI,  
BAKOSHI KIOHEI.

Directors,

Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho,  
Yokohama.

Gentlemen,

We beg to own receipt of your communication of 26th. inst. addressed to Mr. Wilkin, and we see therefrom that we all agree in desiring the general prosperity of trade in Japan.

We would, however, take leave to point out to you that you do not reply to the points in Mr. Wilkin's letter of 21st. inst., nor do you respond to the invitation which was therein conveyed to you that you would inform the foreign silk buyers in Yokohama why you have felt impelled so suddenly to turn the method of doing business in silk which has so long existed in Yokohama, upside down, and to wish to exchange it for one which does not accord with the principles and custom of trade in other countries.

You ask that silk buyers should state to you in what particulars it is that they fear that transactions with your Company will be attended with risk.

In reply we think that there is very little, if anything, which we could add on this point to what was stated by various speakers at the meeting at the Club Germania on the 20th. instant; and we would be glad if you would peruse the reports of that meeting which have appeared in the various newspapers.

What was said then may be taken as representing the view of the foreign silk buyers of Yokohama, and indeed we think that, even before that, the same opinions have been expressed often verbally to the members of the various Japanese silk houses in Yokohama.

If you will consider the above you will, we believe, understand how it is that foreign silk buyers have been compelled to take up their present position.

We are, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

(Signed)	A. J. WILKIN,	} Committee of the Silk Trade of Yokohama.
"	TOM THOMAS,	
"	E. DE BAVIER,	
"	N. P. KINGDON,	
"	A. WOLFF,	

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* says:—Prince Kanin-no-Miya, being about the same age as the sons of the Prince of Wales, is said to intend to call at the residence of their highnesses from time to time, during their stay in Tokio. The Daijio Kwan is said to have ordered the war department to line the road with troops from the Tokio garrison, from Shinbashi station to the Yenrio-kwan when their highnesses arrive at the capital, for the purpose giving a proper salutation.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* says that a central bank will be shortly established by the government.

THE same paper says that constitutional, civil and mercantile laws are now being compiled, of which the first named will be published next year.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* devotes a leading article to the abuses which the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho is formed to correct. The first point is, the arbitrariness of foreign merchants, who are accustomed to take in silk for inspection pending purchase, the process of inspection being extended over a period sufficiently long for the foreign merchant to ascertain (by telegraph) the ruling price at home. If this price be below the price contracted for, the silk is rejected, or a lower price is offered. This practice, says the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun*, shows the arbitrary manner in which foreigners deal with Japanese merchants in transactions of this character, and adds that in weighing silk the same spirit of arbitrariness is displayed, foreigners claiming an allowance of one per cent. for tare, while the actual tare is only one-half per cent. By this means Japanese silk men lose one-half kin in each hundred kin; and this, on 30,000 bales of silk annually sold, means a loss of 500,000 yen. Another absurd custom is to give fees to watchmen in godowns, aggregating 70,000 yen annually. In addition to all this, there is the risk of goods in foreigners' godowns. Foreigners do not hold themselves responsible for losses arising while the silk is in their custody; and, what is worse than all, they borrow money from banks on the security of silk so deposited with them. To correct these abuses native merchants established the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho; a movement which may be good for both parties. The reasons which induce foreigners to refuse acceptance of the new conditions are by no means sound; but the whole may be amended by mutual consultation and agreement.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* refers to the following report from the Boyeki Shokwai:—Since foreign merchants stopped the purchase of silk our direct traders have commenced to buy it. Yesterday the prices realized under the new rules ranged as follows:—

Tomoka, \$600 to \$650. Mayebashi, \$570 to \$580. Hachioji, \$520 to \$525. Kikai, best, \$740. Kikai, \$720. Kakeda, best, \$655. Kakeda, common, \$600 to \$630.

Rates in foreign countries being good, the combination of foreigners will not continue long. According to a communication from Lyons in France the silk trade is in very good condition and prices will certainly rise.

A communication from the United States to the Boyeki Shokwai arrived on the 1st instant, saying that silk of the Sanseisha marked *yamato*, fetches \$700 and Kakeda, best, \$695, and that prices tend to rise since the last report was given. We request those who have connection with the silk trade to take notice of this good news.

WHAT object can the *Nichi Nichi* and *Mai Nichi Shinbun* have in circulating a report to the effect that foreign shipping companies had agreed to refuse carriage of all produce shipped by Japanese for purposes of direct trade; especially when the conductors of those journals know perfectly well that the story is absolutely false as well as absurd? We ask this question, because fair play is to be recommended. So long as the native press adheres to the truth it may write what it chooses without fear of giving offence, even although it condescends to support the actions of those twenty-six men who have contrived, in the past, to sacrifice Japanese commerce for their personal benefit.

We have simply to say that had any Japanese merchant desired to ship produce to-day he

could have secured cargo space on terms as reasonable and fair in every respect as foreigners could have done. The contest that is now going on is between foreign merchants and a combination of Japanese monopolists only. Foreign bankers and shipping companies are neutral. The struggle is not theirs, and they wisely do not associate themselves in any way with it. Probably the *Nichi Nichi* and *Mai Nichi* were prompted to circulate this silly report by consideration of what Japanese have done, and would do again, if their object could be served thereby. Already the national banks have been ordered or advised, which is much the same thing in Japan, not to advance against silk to any but the members of the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho; and the next move may be an order forbidding the railway or the government steamship company to carry silk not consigned to the monopolists. It is in matters such as these that the difference between Japanese and foreign commercial principles is so obvious. The actions which Japanese regard as not merely justifiable but meritorious, foreigners look upon as disgraceful to all who participate therein.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* takes up the cry of "our merchants," and recommends them to stand firm in the contest. Can the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* explain how it comes to pass that the whole foreign trade of this nation has fallen into the hands of twenty-six monopolists, who arrogate to themselves the credit of standing between the unscrupulous, greedy, and cunning foreigner and the guileless natives?

Has the *Nichi Nichi* ever considered that if these twenty-six men's power had been put an end to five years ago, and foreigners had insisted on the right, daily violated by Japan, of free commercial intercourse with all classes of natives, the export trade would be double what it now is? Or has our contemporary ever justly estimated the effect upon commerce of the unjust restrictions imposed upon it by the *Machigaisho*? Are not these two institutions, the *Machigaisho* and the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho, formed for the special object of preventing the meeting of producer and consumer with the foreign exporter and importer, lest the innocent people of the interior should find out how much more advantageous it is to deal directly, than through the medium of the twenty-six, who have waxed fat upon the spoils of their countrymen; slandered foreigners by exaggerated declarations of enormous profits appropriated by them which of right belong to the native, and which have really gone into the pockets of the *saitori*?

The Japanese press will do well to seriously consider the influence for evil which these trade monopolies exert. Look around at the extent of the commerce twenty-one years after its establishment. It is utterly unworthy the name of trade, and, in fact, is a standing reproach to a nation that lays claim to progress, as Japan does. What are the causes of this condition of stagnation? The *Machigaisho*, Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho, and all its kindred combinations to stifle freedom of commerce.

PRINCESS KATSURA-NO-MIYA, who has been ill for some time, died yesterday (3rd. inst.) at 1.17 a.m.

THE *Choya Shinbun* says that His Majesty the Mikado is reported by telegram to have arrived at Yonezawa at 10.30 a.m. on the 2nd. instant, and to have left there yesterday, at 6.20 a.m.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* appears to be sorely exercised in mind about the welfare of the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho. In addition to the article which we translated and reproduced yesterday, there is another the sum and substance of which is as follows:—

The combination of native importers against the purchase of every kind of article from foreigners, to which we referred in our issue of yesterday, has not yet been carried into effect but it most probably will be.

At first the Niadzukarisho entertained fears of specie rising in value in consequence of the present difficulty. But if import dealers make up their minds to combine, no specie will be required in the market and so there can be no anxiety of our merchants suffering on that account. Success therefore seems certain.

As we stated yesterday, foreigners circulated about a thousand copies of their notice amongst persons in the producing districts on the 2nd. and 3rd. instant. The Niadzukarisho also intend to issue a circular giving their version of the matter.

After distributing their *manifesto* foreigners despatched seven or eight *banto* to Hachioji and several districts of Joshiu to buy silk; but this plan, we would remind native traders, may end in enriching *banto* and prove a failure at last.

Banks in the producing districts are continually asking the Niadzukarisho whether they may advance money on goods for such transactions, but the establishment always answers in the negative.

With regard to the combination of foreign merchants there are some objections amongst themselves and some have refused to sign the resolution, but they have all refused to buy silk. They have sent a telegram to the *London Times* and elsewhere about the difficulty. (*Here follows the telegram.*)

The *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* denies the truth of a statement made by the *Yomiuri Shinbun* to the effect that Mr. Nakamura of the Specie Bank sent 150 bales of silk to No. 1, and gives a translation of the letter addressed by the committee to the guild and the circular distributed amongst producers.

A TELEGRAM announces that His Imperial Majesty the Mikado arrived at Fukuoka in Iwashiro at 6.30 a.m., yesterday (4th. inst.) and left there at 2.15 p.m. on the same day.

THE *Hochi Shinbun*, says:—Mr. Shibusawa Kiianku is said to have called yesterday morning on Mr. Wilkin, chairman of the foreign merchants, and to have had a conference with him. A rumour prevails amongst foreign houses to the effect that Mr. Shibusawa negotiated about coming to a compromise and asked the opinion of Mr. Wilkin on this point; but the report is not true; on the contrary, the Niadzukarisho is determined to maintain its cause to the end.

Foreign merchants are said not to be equally resolute. Some of them do not consider the establishment to be arbitrary; in point of fact their cause seems to be rather infirm in some respects. Even among those who have combined against the Niadzukarisho many are said to be desirous of a compromise being effected. Whether it is attributable to these circumstances or not, the price of specie fell unexpectedly yesterday.

THE *Thoya Shinbun* remarks that the great work of building a long bridge across lake Hamana in Totomi, has been sanctioned by the government and will be shortly commenced. The length of the bridge is said to be 1,950 ken, or 11,700 feet.

## Law Reports.

IN THE IMPERIAL GERMAN CONSULAR COURT.

Before ED. ZAPPE, Esq., Judge,  
Friday, 23rd September, 1881.

In the matter of an adjustment of general average per German barque *Marie* from Antwerp to Yokohama and Hiogo.

The court sat to-day to hear any objections on the part of the consignees of cargo, the master or agents of the vessel and of the bottomry bond holders, to the statement, dated September 16th, presented for the approval of the court by the Sworn Adjuster, Mr. W. H. Talbot.

A few questions of minor importance having been put by one of the consignees of cargo present, which were answered by the adjuster, Mr. Talbot prayed the court to ratify and confirm the adjustment, there being no objection on the part of those present to the adjustment or the principles upon which it had been made up.

The court then made the following order:—

In the case of the settlement of the claim of general average of the barque *Marie* of Apurade, Andreas J. Clausen, master, from Antwerp to Yokohama, drawn up by the sworn adjuster, Mr. W. H. Talbot, the court makes the decree following:—

In consideration that the Commercial Code of the German Empire contains a rule that general average shall be adjusted in conformity with the law of the port of the vessel's destination (*vide* Collection of Decisions of the Supreme Court, vol. 7, p. 168) Yokohama becomes, for a German vessel, a German port, and the law applicable is that defined in the German Code of Commerce:

In consideration that the law as stated above is not intended to limit the right of the parties concerned in the adjustment to covenant and agree among themselves for the adoption of any other law or principles of practice:

In consideration that such covenant has been entered into in this case by the deed of July 5th, 1881:

In consideration that by this covenant the parties concerned have agreed to accept an adjustment of the general average in this case in conformity with the principles known as the York-Antwerp rules:

In consideration that the judicial examination of the average statement shows that it has been adjusted in conformity with these principles:

In consideration, finally, that to this statement, drawn up in conformity with the York-Antwerp rules, no objections are raised—on the day fixed for the hearing of such objections by those who have appeared in response to the summons issued to all concerned in the matter, this statement is declared to be valid and binding in law.

IN THE TOKIO SUPERIOR COURT.

J. T. VON HERBERT,  
Plaintiff and Appellant,

v.  
140TH. NATIONAL BANK OF JAPAN,  
Defendants and Respondents.

H. O. Litchfield for the appellant.  
Fujiye Kokichi for the respondents.

This was an appeal from the division of the Tokio Saibanho reported in *Japan Gazette* January 8th, 1881.



The plaintiff on 5th. March 1880, advanced to one Fukusawa Mitsujiro the sum of \$705 upon the security of a deposit note for 1,100 yen for one year issued by the 140th. National Bank and dated February 21st. 1880. By the conditions of the deposit note repayment was to be made only to the depositor or his representative (*Na-dai-nin*) on the production of the deposit note and in one entire sum: yet contrary to this condition the bank paid Mitsujiro 1,000 yen on the 26th. of March 1880, upon his giving the manager a separate receipt for the same and promising to give him the deposit note when he got it back from his place in the country where he had left it.

The action was brought against the defendants to recover damages for loss sustained by plaintiff in consequence of the negligence of the bank manager in so paying the deposit note to Mitsujiro. The court below held that as the transaction between the bank and Mitsujiro was a private one and did not effect the validity of the deposit note the plaintiff had sustained no damage, and so dismissed the petition.

Plaintiff accordingly presented the deposit note for payment at its due date February 21st. 1881 and payment was refused. This appeal was then brought. The case was argued on the 26th. of May and payment was delivered on 22nd. of September. The arguments were the same as in the court below.

#### Translation.

Section for Civil cases,  
No. 451 of the 14th. year Meidji.

and

#### JUDGMENT.

J. PH. VON HEMERT, Netherlands merchant  
residing in Yokohama, No. 25;

by his attorney H. C. LITCHFIELD,  
*Plaintiff.*

and

KUROKAWA TOMOKASU, director of No. 140th.  
National Bank of No. 14, Yamagata  
Yokocho, Minamimura Yama county,  
Province of Uzen in the Yamagata ken  
and director of the No. 67th. National  
Bank of No. 82, Tsuruoka Makimatchi,  
Nishitagawa county of the above same  
Province.

by his attorney FUJITE KOKICHI,  
*Defendant.*

#### Claim for recovery of sustained loss.

Being dissatisfied with the decision given in the Tokio Saibansho, the present cause was reheard in appeal, and upon examination of the matter, the protestations made by defendant against plaintiff's claim are found to be based upon the following points:

1.—That in the present case the principal document and proof, the note or deposit receipt, is a document of value only between the No. 140th. National Bank and Fukuzawa Mitsujiro and has not the authority of a general currency. That plaintiff has arbitrarily looked upon same as a general currency and that without even giving any advice of it to the bank, has taken it as a mortgage, and has lent a certain amount of foreign money on it to Mitsujiro which was a most careless deed.

2.—Defendant says that plaintiff argues that the bank has broken its engagements which are to be found at the back of the note, and that by reimbursing to Mitsujiro a certain amount of the money latter had deposited, the bank made the receipt lose

its value and consequently occasioned the loss now sustained by plaintiff, but (says defendant) in reality the loss sustained by plaintiff is not occasioned by the bank reimbursing the deposited money, but really through Mitsujiro not returning to plaintiff the money latter lent to him, and so on.

3.—That plaintiff, even before claiming against the borrower Fukuzawa Mitsujiro should not be allowed to lodge this claim in against defendant for recovery of his loss.

#### REASONING OF THE COURT:

The principal document in this case, the note or money deposit receipt, is the same as a cheque which is given to a person or a nounless bond (*Mumei Kosai Shodjo*), and has not the same authority as a general currency, still making the right on such a receipt over to another person is not prohibited; it is clearly said on the back of that document and in its first article, that either the depositor or an authorised person in his name must present himself with it in person, further in order to facilitate transactions there is on the face of it said also that depending the convenience, it may be made over, sold and purchased or even given as mortgage without however losing any of its intrinsic value.

Now plaintiff has taken it as a guarantee against money he has advanced, plaintiff has taken this note as a valid one, and as a document of authority and there are no objections that can be brought against it, still defendant, as said herebefore, protests, that he is not liable because plaintiff has not advised him of it before hand, however this cannot be regarded to be of such an unreasonable character as to lessen any of plaintiff's rights; against the defendant on the contrary are unreasonable facts from the effect of which he cannot free himself; when deposited money is returned, most decidedly it must be exchanged against its deposit receipt, this besides is most clearly said in art. 1.—At the back of the receipt itself, this naturally is in order to forcome misunderstandings and is also to make the public have more faith in the document.

In Art. 3 of the appendix there is further said "in case the receipts should be lost in fire or through robbers, publication in the papers will be made of the fact, and if within three months it has not been found back etc. etc." All this clearly shows more and more that the receipt is considered to be the only valid and reliable proof of the arrangements.

If the statement of defendant should be true, that when the depositor comes in person to receive his deposited money, it is not necessary to ask him whether he has or has not his deposit receipt, it would be natural that in such case it is of no urgency then at all to claim from people to find responders in case they have lost their receipt either in fire or through robbers.—Further defendant publishing in the papers the fact that the depositor had not returned his deposit receipt at the termination of the time limited for the deposition, was simply to try to free himself of the breach of engagement to which he (defendant) had committed himself, and was nothing but to try by those means also to escape before the public from any difficulties that may arise from it;

Of course being afraid that difficulties of the kind of the present case may arise, the regulations in question are at the back of the receipt, and seeing its minute and well regulated working, cannot do otherwise but make people look upon it as an engagement

which is made as a prevention for such misunderstandings. Moreover as this is for certain a valid document, is it not for that reason that after plaintiff had taken informations about it, that defendant begun publishing in the papers, and commenced proceedings against Mitsujiro to obtain the restitution of the document in question?

Now as this is a document of such an intrinsic value, it must be considered to be a most careless way of doing business on the part of defendant, for him to believe the simple verbal assertion of Mitsujiro, saying that he had taken his deposit receipt to his country and advanced him a certain amount of money on it;

Through this act of carelessness the deposit receipt was rendered valueless and this was the base of the loss now sustained by plaintiff;

Further defendant argues that before plaintiff ever has ever brought a claim in against the real borrower Fukuzawa Mitsujiro to obtain reimbursement of his debt, plaintiff has no right whatever to sue defendant. But a loan which is granted on a mortgage, is based on the faith that is attached to that mortgage and not only of the man who contracts it; now whereas when the present deposit receipt was taken as mortgage, Mitsujiro had not yet received any money on account of same it was thus a completely perfect and an intrinsic value possessing document; defendant through his carelessness has broken his engagements, paid out money on account on it, and caused the said deposit receipt to become a paper of no value, it is thus perfectly natural and lawful that the claim for the thus sustained loss should be made against defendant, and defendant cannot find any protestations against it;

Moreover as regards what is said in Art. 1.—At the back of the receipt, regarding the examining of the financial state of affairs of any representative or responder, plaintiff has simply acted upon the faith of the document, and through the carelessness of defendant that most valuable document having become a paper of no value it is for that reason that the loss sustained is claimed from defendant; Therefore quit to him to find out at any later occasion a way to claim it back from Mitsujiro and Nakamura Yosaburo who stood responders at the time that the money on account was paid out, the defendant can in no way object to comply with plaintiff's demand.

#### DECISION.

Therefore defendant conformably to plaintiff's demand will have to receive the said deposit receipt from plaintiff and pay and reimburse unto said plaintiff the amount mentioned on said receipt being 1,100 yen, with 6 per cent. on said amount from off the day payment was demanded viz.: 1st. of June 1880, up to the day that the reimbursement shall take place.

P.S.—The expenses of the suit will be reimbursed by defendant to plaintiff in conformity with the regulations.

14th. year Meiji 9th. month 22nd. day.

(22nd. September, 1881.)

TOKIO JOTO SAIBANSHO.

Signed: Judge TOMINAGA FUYUKI, (L.S.)

„ „ TORITA TEIDJIRO, „

„ „ OHARA KENZABURO. „

(Lescan of Tokio Joto Saibansho.)

## IN H. B. M.'S. COURT FOR JAPAN.

Before MARTIN DOHMEN, Esq., Acting Assistant Judge.

Tuesday, 4th. October, 1881.

S. COCKING & Co. v. WADE.

Mr. Litchfield appeared for the plaintiffs.

This was a claim for \$79.24 in two amounts of \$52.50 and \$26.74 against the master of the barque *Forward Ho* being on account of damages sustained to consignments of China clay and glass bottles shipped on board the above vessel.

Mr. Granert testified to having examined the China clay at the hatoba. It was much damaged and was quite unsaleable. He also examined some other cases at the godown which were in good condition and which were newly marked. He was informed they were landed ex *Forward Ho*. The casks were of different sizes. These on the hatoba were of uniform size. There were only three or four casks on the hatoba and about 20 or 30 in the godown. The price of China clay is said to be about \$1.25 to \$1.30 per picul.

Samuel Cocking of the firm of S. Cocking & Co. sworn, stated we recently imported China clay by the *Forward Ho* consigned to us by our London agents. Fifteen casks were shipped to us of which ten are missing, China clay is worth about \$1.25 per picul, the whole contained about 42 piculs. The sound clay was taken delivery of; the damaged was refused by us. Sundry packages in mats and bags were tendered to us at the hatoba but we refused them. China clay is always packed in wooden casks of uniform size and pattern. China clay is used for making porcelain. We sent in a formal notice to the agents of the *Forward Ho* refusing to take the damaged goods.

Edward Wade master of the *Forward Ho* sworn stated that when the clay first came on board the ship he refused to take it. It was afterwards taken in and a receipt given for it in "bad order." Some of the casks broke before they were stowed away. When the bills of lading were presented he refused to sign unless the ship was held clear of all blame. This took place in London. The bill was eventually signed by the owner after the vessel had left London and not by him (defendant). On arrival in Yokohama defendant went to plaintiff's office and told his clerk what condition the clay was in and asked for casks in which to re-pack it. Was told no casks could be given but plaintiff's clerk said he did not care what the clay came ashore in as long as it was not wasted. Defendant then went back to the ship and collected what casks he could and sent ashore for more. He also personally superintended the landing of the clay in order to see that none was lost. With the exception of a small quantity in two baskets the whole was sent ashore in casks.

By Mr. Litchfield. I saw the clay brought on board in London and gave the first receipt. It did not all come in one lot. The casks put on board in my absence were the ones I rejected. When goods are damaged they are so noted by masters of vessels in the margin of the bills of lading. The owner does not usually sign bills of lading. I do not remember carrying China clay before. The casks were old and in weak condition and, I therefore refused them. The casks I landed in Yokohama were the same I refused in London. They could not have been changed.

Evidence was then taken as to the second

claim of \$26.74 for damage done to two casks of glass bottles.

Samuel Cocking sworn stated that out of a consignment of 22 casks of glass bottles only 20 were received. (*Bill of Lading produced showing 22 were shipped*).

Cross-examined:—I might have seen a notice in the paper directing claims against the *Forward Ho* to be sent to agents. I do not remember who took an account of the casks when they were landed last year.

Edward Wade sworn, stated that he first heard of the claim for the missing casks in London, when the charterers handed it to him. They told him that if the claim was well founded they would not ship any more cargo in the *Forward Ho*. Defendant overhauled his bills of lading and found that the one relating to the said casks was missing. On turning to the mate's receipts it was discovered that they had all been delivered in Yokohama. The agents in London were then satisfied.

Cross-examined. Everybody landed their own cargo last voyage. Messrs. Illies & Co., told me of this claim. I know nothing about the missing casks.

Mr. Litchfield then addressed the court and contended that bills of lading, whether signed by the owner or master, were equally valid; that in fact the one signs as deputy for the other. He cited several cases in support of this view. He also animadverted on the carelessness displayed by the owner in this case in signing a bill of lading for goods that were damaged, without making a note of the fact and reviewed what he considered to be the weak points of the case. He facetiously remarked that some of the casks shipped on board the *Forward Ho* appeared to have greatly benefitted in health by the voyage, and that many that were taken on board old and broken down which were landed quite strong and rejuvenated. He finally contended that the notice in the papers requesting claims to be sent in did not affect the case and strongly urged that judgment should be given for his clients.

Judgment reserved.

## NAVAL COURT OF ENQUIRY.

Before MARTIN DOHMEN, Esq., Vice-Consul, President,

and

Lieut. H. C. MARTIN, H. M. S. *Albatross*,  
Mr. ERNEST HENRY, Master, British barque  
*Alice Muir* (Nautical Assessors),

Mr. COLVILLE D. W. KIDDLE, Assistant Paymaster of H. M. S. *Iron Duke*, Clerk of the Court.

In H.B.M.'s Consulate yesterday morning an enquiry was held into the loss of the British barque *Wellington*, Dick, master, official number 78,360 owned in Auckland N.Z., wrecked near Misaki on the 14th. Sept., 1881 on a voyage from Newcastle, N.S.W., to Yokohama.

Captain Dick, sworn, said:—On the evening of the 13th. of this month Vries Island bore S.E. distant about four miles, when the typhoon struck us, the wind was in the S.E.; after getting this wind we steered N.E. by E.; took the Sagami light, and the wind coming so strong had to take all small sail in, barometer had fallen to 29.70, wind still increasing had to reduce sail; about 2 a.m. on the 15th. sighted Jokoomia light right ahead, then hauled ship to port, the wind being S.; after hauling the ship up two points

to eastward foretopsail sheet was carried away, and also the quarter block and foreyard; sent hands aloft to make the sail fair; it being impossible to set it again, which was done with great difficulty, the barometer still falling, 29.50; gave orders to set fore and aft sails, I being at the helm, and in trying to set these sails, jib, foretopmast stay sail and mizen stay sail blew away, and only succeeded in getting the main top mast stay sail set; this was done to try to assist the ship as much as possible, but after having sails blown away and the ship making no progress hove to, as she was in a disabled state, the wind being too strong for us to replace the sails. We were so close to the land that we found it impossible to do anything to the ship. About 4.30 a.m. the Sagami light bore E. distant about one and a half miles; when abreast of this light the main topsail blew away leaving the ship totally powerless, barometer falling rapidly and reading 29.30; prepared to try and get ship in safety to anchorage and just at break of day sighted a reef of rocks on the port quarter and on looking at the chart found it out to be a small bay and the only place in which the ship would be likely to ride out the storm in safety. Shifting the helm to allow ship to pay off so that it could get into this bay, when we were close to the reef the lead gave ten fathoms and immediately afterwards seven and a half, and both anchors were let go, and veered out all the chain we had; then sent hands aloft to cut away remnants of all sails which had been blown away, hoping to ease the ship, but it was impossible and after riding at anchors here for about ten minutes the wind shifted to S. W. and the ship then touched the ground, causing her to drag her anchors. I then finding it impossible to save the ship, prepared the boats in order to save the crew but after launching the whale boat it immediately filled and broke to pieces the surf breaking over the ship; in the mean time the ship commenced to break up taking the fore part and the remaining boats away, and finding no means of saving the crew asked for a volunteer to carry a line on shore, when the second mate, Mr. George Bradshaw, immediately offered himself, but failed in the attempt. Two other men swam ashore, and one man, not being able to swim ventured with a life buoy, but, owing to the heavy surf on the beach he was carried back to the weather side of the ship round the bows, and eventually managed to get on shore much hurt and bruised. With the aid of the mizen mast the rest of the crew managed to reach the shore in safety, I being the last to leave the ship.

By the President:—The village near which we were lost is called Mitamura and is about five miles from Jokosima. The wreck broke up completely, and the remains were sold by auction for the benefit of the concerned. The ship was not insured, and I am not aware that any steps were taken to have her insured.

By Lieutenant Martin:—On the evening of the 13th., Vries Island bore S.E. distant about four miles; the wind was in the same direction and blew almost a gale. I was steering N.E. by E.; at 2 a.m. on the 13th. Jokosima light was ahead. We went ashore on the morning of the 14th. The reef, we sighted, was not the Macedonian reef but a small one without any name, at the entrance of the bay. It was blowing a typhoon when we went ashore. The vessel broke in half after striking heavily.

By Captain Henry:—If the ship had been

in deeper water she would have been exposed to the full fury of the gale, and would have had less chance to weather it; as it was she was sheltered by the reef at the end of the bay. The ship had been provided with sufficient sails to have weathered an ordinary gale.

After this evidence had been read over and signed, the mate

H. Alexander was called and sworn:—I have heard the master's statements and as far as I know they are correct. I think every imaginable precaution was taken to reach port. After the ship struck the captain and crew behaved well. I do not know the name of the bay in which the vessel went ashore, but could find it on the chart. The captain knew where the ship was when he sighted the reef.

By the President:—The ship was making on an average one inch of water per hour during the whole of the voyage. She was well found in sails.

By Captain Henry:—We had no time to heave the ship to at the commencement of the gale. The gale commenced at 1 a.m.

Captain Dick said neither the second officer nor crew knew anything of the facts as they were all engaged with the sails during the whole time.

Arthur Rickard A. B. sworn said:—I remember the morning of the 14th. It was about 1.30 a.m. when we were called on deck to take in sail. I believe everything was done which could possibly save the vessel.

This as well as the mate's statement was read and signed.

The court not wishing to hear further evidence retired to consider their finding, and after some time returned and gave the following:—

#### DECISION.

The court exonerates the master and crew from all blame in connection with the loss of the vessel and considers that the steps taken by the master for saving his crew are highly creditable to him.

(Signed) MARTIN DOHMEN,  
Vice Consul and President.

" H. C. MARTIN,  
Lieutenant, R.N.

" ERNEST HENRY,  
Master, *Alice Muir*.

The president handed the captain his certificate and the court rose.

#### CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN MR. WILKIN AND THE RENGU KIITO NIADZU- KARISHO.

Yokohama, 21st. Sept., 1881.

Mr. SHIBUSAWA KISAKU,  
" HARA ZENZABURO,  
" MOGI SOBEI,  
" ASABUKI YEJI,  
" BAKOSHI KIOHEI,

Directors,  
RENGU KIITO NIADZUKARISHO,  
Yokohama.

GENTLEMEN,—I am desired to convey to you a resolution unanimously passed by a meeting of foreign merchants and others held last evening at the Club Germania, Yokohama.

This meeting represented nearly all the firms engaged in the silk trade, and was attended by some sixty to seventy gentlemen.

Please find enclosed copy of this resolution. I was desired also to convey to you from the meeting, the expression of its surprise at the sudden and abrupt manner in which your Association had commenced its operations, and its disappointment, that after so many years of large silk transactions with foreign merchants, there should not at least have been shown to them the courtesy of some notice beforehand, or some opportunity to discuss the regulations you propose to adopt.

I venture to think that the meeting was not wrong in assuming that the Japanese silk-dealers have not any general cause of complaint against foreign silk buyers, but I am requested to say to you that should there be such, silk buyers will be glad if you will state the cause or causes to them, and I am to assure you, that they will receive their best consideration.

We are, doubtless, all agreed, that whatever secures mutual good is that which is best adapted to promote the prosperity of the trade of Japan, and we all sincerely desire that this prosperity may be attained.

It will be much to be regretted if it should prove that the regulations of your association should tend to impede the progress of the trade in silk, which has been so long carried on to such a considerable extent.

Awaiting the favour of your reply.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) A. J. WILKIN,  
Chairman of the Meeting.

WILKIN, Esq.,

SIR:—We beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 21st. instant enclosing the resolution come to at the meeting held at Germania Club. After carefully pursuing the contents of your favour under acknowledgement and studying the object of resolution it appears to us that you have not properly comprehended the *raison d'être* of the establishment and in consequence of this are apparently under a misapprehension.

We therefore beg to place before you the object of the establishment of this society and request your closest consideration thereon. Our principal object in the establishment of this society is really to improve the quality of silk and facilitate business between both parties and moreover to promote mutual prosperity: and with no other intention.

In your resolution you state that you entertain anxiety as to the great risk incurred in making transactions in the existing conditions of our society, but as the establishment, as above mentioned, has for its object the sincere desire to promote mutual security in business transactions, it is our universal wish that you would kindly point out to us the respective items in our regulations which appear to you to be risky.

Now, we all know from past experience the extent of your connection with the commerce of our country and we do not doubt that you desire to see it become more and more prosperous. Besides our acquaintance with you is not one of to-day but we have enjoyed your friendship for a long time. If you will only credit our assurance that we have no other motives than what we have already told you it will be not only for our benefit but for the benefit of both sides and of commerce generally.

This we beg to inform you as our reply to your letter.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) M'MAKOSHI KIOBEI.  
ASABUKI YEJI.  
MOGI SOBEI.  
HARA ZENZABURO.  
SHIBUSAWA HISAKU.

of the RENGU KIITO NIADZUKARISHO.

26th. September 14th year of Meiji.

#### THE SILK DIFFICULTY.

To the editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

SIR: Below please find a copy of the telegram addressed on 1st. inst. by the executive committee in the name of the chamber of commerce to

The *Times*, London.  
Chamber of Commerce, Lyons.  
Silk Association, New York.

From Chamber of Commerce, Yokohama.

Silk business suspended by new oppressive conditions of sale imposed by Japanese guild. Foreign buyers resisting.

THE COMMITTEE.

Yokohama, October 3rd., 1881.

#### THE FOREIGN MERCHANTS' ADDRESS TO JAPANESE SILK PRODUCERS AND DEALERS.

THE following circular has been printed in Japanese and distributed in the principal silk districts. The tone throughout is moderate; and the questions raised should receive the earnest consideration to which their importance entitles them. A good understanding between native merchants and foreigners is essential to a prosperous commerce; and if, as the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* states, the Rengo Kiito Niadzakarisho are about to circulate their version of the causes which brought about the present state of affairs, and they do so as truthfully and fairly as foreigners have done, the future of Japanese trade presents a brighter aspect than at any time during the past twenty years.

#### THE ADDRESS.

The foreign merchants of Yokohama, interested in the silk trade, desire to call the attention of the Japanese producers of, and dealers in, silk to the following statement:

1.—Foreigners do not usually combine in guilds or associations for doing business, but are accustomed to act freely and independently of each other in all transactions. Their reason for this is that such combinations always tend to confer special advantages on a few persons, to the detriment of general business.

On the other hand, free competition tends to the public advantage, assuring full market prices for all merchandise, and liberty of action for each individual.

2.—Foreigners have been obliged, however, to combine on the present occasion in order to resist a change in the customs of the silk trade, which a combination of Japanese merchants in Yokohama wishes arbitrarily to impose on them.

These customs have existed from the opening of foreign trade in Japan until now, and the proof that they were reasonable and good customs is seen in the steadily growing prosperity of the commerce in silk.

By most of the foreign merchants these customs have always been honourably observed and therefore both sellers and buyers have been well satisfied with them. If any one has abused them, or taken improper advantage of them, the Japanese merchants could easily have found a remedy for such abuses. The majority of foreign merchants would have willingly assisted in this respect. For they are not less concerned than the Japanese to prevent practices by which a few gain advantage over all the others. No complaint of such abuses was, however, made, nor were foreigners generally consulted about the matter; but the Japanese merchants, among themselves, decided that the old customs must be changed, and all business done in a new manner. This decision was then suddenly announced to foreigners, who were thus treated with discourtesy, and called upon to submit to new and serious inconveniences in their business.

3.—To such a method of proceeding foreigners naturally refuse to consent, and they find it so unreasonable that some cannot help suspecting that there are other motives for it than those which are published, and that this combination of Japanese merchants desires to obtain control of the whole silk trade of Japan, to the injury of every one else engaged in it, whether foreigner or native.

Such combinations are frequent among the Japanese of Yokohama, and the fact that some of the members of the Rengo Kiito Ni Adzu Karisho are active advocates of Japanese direct trade with foreign countries warrants the suspicion of such a combination in the present instance.

For if it were desired to reduce prices in the interior so that a few firms could buy silk cheaply, and export it at low cost, nothing would serve that purpose better than the formation of a powerful guild which should at the same time restrict the sales of the producer by limiting his market, and hinder the purchases of the foreign merchant by annoying rules.

4.—Now, the foreign merchants wish distinctly to declare that they are not in the least opposed to any direct trade which Japanese may desire to carry on. They certainly believe that Japanese shipments to foreign countries will yield less profit to producers than quick sales in the market of Yokohama, but they are wholly in favour of complete liberty of action in all such matters, and are quite content to allow results to decide the question. They are, however, strongly opposed to any crafty efforts on the part of a few dealers in Yokohama to hinder that freedom of trade which is guaranteed by the treaties between Japan and foreign countries, or to prevent the merchant or producer of the interior from getting a fair price for his merchandise, and from disposing of it as he may think most to his own advantage.

5.—The foreign merchants therefore now appeal to the producers of and dealers in silk in Japan for assistance in the opposition which ought to be made to every monopoly such as that which is proposed by the Rengo Kiito Ni Adzu Karisho, and request all men to consider that by law the trade in silk, and in all merchandise, is free, and that every one has the right to deal directly with foreigners if he wishes to do so.

And the undersigned engage that every one who is willing to deal directly with them in a fair and reasonable manner shall be courteously welcomed and honourably treated. By means of this kind of *direct trading* not only will losses and disappointments be avoided, but the full market value of all

Japanese products, together with *prompt payment in silver*, will always be obtained.

6.—Besides this, personal acquaintance may be thus formed through which honest people from the interior will learn to guard themselves against cunning deceptions, and to discover also that among the foreigners living at the ports there are many honourable men with whom direct transactions are neither difficult nor dangerous. In this way existing prejudices will be removed, and the prosperity of commerce will be increased.

The undersigned therefore respectfully urge the people of Japan to consider the matter herein set forth, and not to suffer themselves to be deluded by false representations or by the pretended patriotism of monopolists, who, while professing only to desire a reform in the mode of doing business, are possibly intending to obtain the control of a large and valuable article for their own private advantage.

Yokohama, September, 1881.

#### CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEETING.

MINUTES of a meeting held at the rooms of the Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday the 29th. September 1881.

Present:—Messrs. Wilkin (Chairman), Walsh, Thomas, Bavier, Johnston, Kingdon, Forbes, Lindsley, Vivanti, Allcock, Fraser, Von Fischer, Illies, Schultz, Ludwig, Scheidt, Mollison, Reid, Marian, Ziegler, Wolf, Schale, Abegg, Mottu, Taylor, Heimann, Heinemann, Grosser, Grunewald, Burchardt, Guisani, Boyes, Armand, Biagioni, Domille, Jas. Walter, Chamounard and Gribble (Secretary).

The Chairman after reading the minutes of the last meeting, congratulated those present upon the firmness so far displayed by the signatories to the agreement not to buy silk from the new Ito-Gwaisha, and upon the success which must follow a continuation of the present combination amongst foreign buyers. He could recollect no similar unanimity amongst foreign merchants in Yokohama and he trusted that it would continue in force until our objects had been obtained. For his part he was prepared to stand by the agreement for an indefinite time: the object was a just and righteous one and it would undoubtedly be secured if foreigners maintained their present attitude. Since the last meeting the agreement had been printed in Japanese and widely distributed, for which thanks were due to Mr. Bavier who had lost no time in carrying out the work. The reply from the Ito Gwaisha to his letter of 21st. September had been duly circulated, and he thought the meeting would agree with him that this letter was not a satisfactory one: it was virtually no reply to our communication.

It was noticeable that the action we had been forced to take had caused a practical suspension of business between the native town and the foreign settlement, and it was strange to observe what a powerful effect even seven days stoppage of business between native and foreign banking associations had caused: in fact it seemed to have created something like a collapse in currency. This would apparently indicate that there was far too much of inflation in the whole system of Japanese trading. The chairman added that the foreign banks had been asked to support the present movement of the merchants, to which request the banks have promised their full consideration.

He concluded by asking the meeting to

nominate an executive committee to conduct the business incidental to this movement, and had also to suggest that an explanatory statement of our action and object should be printed in Japanese and circulated in the country, as the native newspapers had already misrepresented facts, and it was desirable that the truth should be made known to those at a distance.

Mr. Ludwig was glad to inform the meeting that to-day he had bought 8 bales of silk from the Koseki-gumi, inspection to be made in his own godown upon the old terms and conditions and without the intervention of the Ito Gwaisha: he thought that in a few days the trade could be resumed on its old basis.

The chairman remarked that this was very satisfactory and he trusted it might be taken as a sign that the present scheme would be abandoned, at the same time we had better not relax in our firmness.

It was then proposed by Mr. Thomas and seconded by Mr. Bavier.—That the declaration of 21st. September remain in force and be hereby confirmed by all the signatories unless any should now declare their wish to withdraw therefrom, and the next meeting be held on Thursday next at the same hour and place.

No person present expressing any wish to retire from the agreement, this proposition was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Mr. Wolff proposed and Mr. Walsh seconded that an executive committee of three be nominated to conduct the business of the present association. Carried unanimously.

Mr. Heinemann proposed and Mr. Taylor seconded that Messrs. Wilkin, Bavier and Thomas form the executive committee, with power to increase their number to five. Carried unanimously.

The chairman then read a draft of his proposed letter to the Ito Gwaisha in reply to their communication which he suggested should be submitted to the committee before despatch; but at the instance of Mr. Kingdon the meeting was of opinion that the letter just read needed no alteration and should be sent in its present form carrying also the signatures of the committee.

Mr. Mollison proposed and Mr. Ludwig seconded. That an explanatory circular, stating the object of this action by foreign merchants, should be addressed in Japanese to the native silk dealers and producers: its compilation being left in the hands of the committee. Carried unanimously.

After a vote of thanks to the chair the meeting adjourned until Thursday next at 4 p.m.

#### RULES MUTUALLY AGREED UPON BY WHOLESALE DEALERS IN SILK.

1.—Owners of *kiito, noshi, mawata, mayu, degara mayu, kudzurui, &c.* having made certain proposals to us for the future conduct of the sale of their goods, we have agreed upon the following rules.

2.—When *kiito, mawata, mayu, degara mayu, kudzurui, &c.* are sent by owners in the producing districts to Yokohama, for sale to either Japanese or foreigners, they shall be forthwith conveyed to the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho and there stored.

3.—When goods thus sent are received they shall be inspected in accordance with the rules of the establishment; and when required the bales shall be repacked so that each shall be uniform in quality. Any one of these bales may be kept on the premises



of a wholesale dealer as a sample by which transactions may be settled.

(Note.—Goods purchased by a dealer in the producing districts, or on the market at Yokohama, shall be subject likewise to this rule. No dealer, on any pretext, shall evade the substance of this article.)

4.—When a dealer concludes a sale by means of the sample bale in his possession, he shall immediately notify the Rengo Kiito Nindzukurisho of the transaction; and the delivery of the bulk and payment therefor shall be made by and to the company according to its rules.

(Note.—Even a portion of a bale so sold shall be subject to this rule.)

5.—Goods consigned to a member and stored with this company may be transferred only to another member; and the transaction shall be conducted in accordance with these rules.

(Note.—Persons who are not members of this company will not be recognized; and any member to whom goods are consigned shall inform the owner of this rule.)

6.—All dealers are at liberty to effect sales by means of sample; but they shall not carry the sample to foreign houses or elsewhere for inspection.

7.—Advances upon goods stored with this company shall not exceed 80 per cent.; and the term shall be thirty days. If the goods are not sold during this term, it may be extended by a new contract for another thirty days. If such new contract be not made the goods shall be sold at the market price then current, and the surplus shall be paid to the owner of the goods who shall be also liable to make good any deficit.

(Note.—Varying percentages of advances may cause natural dissatisfaction; and care must be taken to preserve equality in this respect. Any member, however, is at liberty to accept a lower advance than 80 per cent.)

8.—When goods upon which advances have been made are sold, the proceeds of the sale shall be exchanged for kinsatsu on the same day, and after repayment of the advance the balance shall be handed to the owner.

(Note.—The owner may on request postpone the exchange of the proceeds of sale into kinsatsu for seven days; but on the eighth day, even though the owner be absent, the exchange shall be made at the rate of that day. As the exchange of kinsatsu fluctuates daily the owner of the goods shall consent to this condition as part of the conditions of the advance.)

9.—In event of fluctuation in exchange for kinsatsu during the period of storage to such an extent that the proceeds of sale of silk are insufficient to cover advances made, the owner of silk shall make good the deficiency. Should he neglect or fail to do so he shall be posted as a defaulter at the houses of each member, and no transactions shall be made with him henceforth.

(Note.—Such defaulter shall be excluded from transactions either through another member or as agent for others.)

10.—(Commissions chargeable shall be:—(not stated).)

11.—Sales may be contracted for to either Japanese or foreigners, but delivery shall not be made before payment is received.

12.—Fees customarily payable to Chinese or Japanese, and to watchmen of godowns, &c., shall be abolished.

13.—This association will have no transactions with any person who purchases silk in the producing districts for sale to foreigners; or, with those who purchase from any person not a member of this association.

(Note.—This article does not refer to goods sold to foreigners according to the rules of this company.)

14.—No silk will be received from those persons who have taken even one bale to wholesale dealers who are not members of this association.

15.—In support of our adherence to these articles we have deposited one thousand yen each with the 2nd. National Bank; and should any member violate one article of these rules the whole or a portion of this deposit shall be forfeited; and his name may be removed from the association by a general resolution of the members.

(Note.—A share of the Rengo Kiito Nindzukurisho may be deposited in lieu of money.)

In witness of this mutual agreement each member affixes his hand and seal.

Signatures:

HARA ZENZABURO (Kameya), MOGI SOBEI (Nozawaya), SHIBUSAWA SAKUTARO, MUMAKOSHI KIOHEI (Mitsui Bussan Kwaisha), ASAFUKI YEIJI (Boyeki Shokwai), HIRAMUMA SENZO (Sekitanya), KAWAGOTE GENTARO, WAKAO IKUZO, NAKAZATO CHUBEI (Nozawaya), TANAKA HEIHACHI (Itoya), UYEHARA SHIROTEMON (Manager of Kotsuke company) HORIKOSHI KIUSABURO (Tomiya), TABEI YOSHIBEI (Kioya), TAKAHASHI MANYEMON (Fujisawaya), KAWAGITA KIUTARO, KOYASU SHUN (Fuso Shokwai), TAKAKI SABURO (Doshin Kwaisha), SUZUKI UYEMON (Suzukiya), HAGIHARA KENJIRO, NISHIMA KINBEI, YAMADA KOMAKICHI, ISHIMA YUZO, AMENOMIYA KEIJIRO, SHIBUSAWA YOSABURO, WATANABE FUKUSABURO (Sekitanya), KASAHARA MEGUMU (Maruya Company).

#### FOREIGN SILK ASSOCIATION.

##### MEETING ON THE 6TH. INSTANT.

Minutes of a meeting of silk merchants held at the rooms of the Chamber of Commerce, on Thursday, the 6th. October 1881.

*Present.*—Messrs. Wilkin (chairman) Biagioni, Grunewald, Gillet, Dourille, Marian, Johnston, Ziegler, von Fischer, Ludwig, Wolff, Kingdon, Schultze, Bavier, Thomas, Schwabe, Gay, Grosser, Mottu, Abegg, Paul Heinemann, Fobes, Harmand, Mollison, Allcock, Scheidt, Heimann, Giussani, W. B. Walter, Jas Walter, Illies, Taylor, Burchard, Fraser, Lindsley, Boyes, Vivanti and Gribble (secretary).

The secretary having read the minutes of the last meeting,

The chairman stated that the committee named at the previous meeting had asked Messrs. Wolff and Kingdon to join them, and that the committee's reply to the letter from the Ito Gwaisha had been sent in; also that a circular had been addressed in Japanese to the native silk merchants and producers explaining the motives which actuated foreign merchants in their present combination. Both documents had appeared in the local papers and the latter (for which acknowledgments were due to Mr. Walsh) contained a clear and very moderate statement of our position and object. It was very desirable not to embitter the present discussion by heated argument and the circular had carefully avoided any such tendency. The native press had, unfortunately, not followed this principle, but he was glad to say that several Japanese silk merchants had repudiated the abusive tone which appeared in the native papers and expressed their regret at the many misstatements therein. The chairman trusted that the foreign press would remain

moderate in its tone and would second the merchants in maintaining a dignified attitude. Our position was a thoroughly just one and we required no exaggeration to sustain it. We were all acting in concert, but we desired no coercion and would repudiate any idea of "boycotting." Let it suffice for every one to know that as the silk trade was engaged in an arduous and honourable struggle in which they were denying themselves for the common good, so they were entitled to look upon anyone who selfishly weakened their hands for some supposed self-advantage, as one who voluntarily placed himself outside the pale of this little commercial commonwealth. Sixteen hundred copies of the Japanese circular had been printed and distributed, and he had every reason to think that it had borne some fruit with those to whom it was addressed.

Also, at the general request of the foreign silk merchants, a telegram had been despatched, in the name of the Chamber of Commerce, to Lyons, London, and New York, notifying the present position of affairs. This was sent with the object of confirming the intelligence which individual merchants would, under present circumstances, be obliged to telegraph their constituents explaining their inability to execute orders. On the other hand, in its compilation they had sought to guard against its producing any undue influence on prices at home.

He had had two long interviews with Mr. Shibusawa (at the request of the latter) but they were not of an official character. He believed the result would be some proposition for a committee from each side to meet.

He had also had an interview with Mr. Hara—unofficial,—but it was devoted to an explanation of the reasons why he, Mr. Hara, had not carried out the understanding come to at the interview some weeks ago with the chairman, namely, that a committee should have met the guild; and also of the reasons which had led to the formation of the guild.

They would observe that a good deal was said in the newspapers in the way of a threat as to the Japanese merchants sending forward silk on their own account. He did not suppose this was possible, but if it were done, it would probably be a considerable loss to them: and for the rest, foreigners might be quite content to see them do it.

In conclusion he begged the meeting not to be influenced by reports which might be circulated by interested parties that this or that firm had bought silk. He apprehended that they were not a knot of schemers, each seeing how much he can get the advantage of his neighbours, and how close to the wind he can sail, without absolutely infringing the agreement. All more or less were sufferers; those engaged solely in the import trade had their share; but it was not for them to talk of going back. To go forward was, he believed, the way to victory and honour: to go back, the path to disgrace and loss: loss of prestige, loss of position, loss of commercial right. Every man, aye every woman too, in the settlement, not biassed by self-interest, was watching with eager interest and sympathy, the struggle. And this matter is not for Yokohama alone; it has gone to China, to Europe, and to America, and those who take an interest in the East will watch how foreigners acquit themselves. They were gathered from many climes, but he had a confidence that this one thing they did;—this one creed they held,—that they would stand for the right, and stand for their commercial right.

Mr. Ludwig regretted to say that the 8 bales silk he had lately bought, upon the old terms, had not been delivered to him, and that he had brought the matter before the native court to enforce delivery in terms of his contract. He was able also to state that several Oshiu silk owners had expressed a determination to separate themselves from the Ito Gwaisha. In reply to Mr. Kingdon Mr. Ludwig said that the owner of his 8 bales was in the interior, at his own flature.

Mr. Allcock informed the meeting that he had bought 50 bales of silk for a constituent before this combination was formed, and that subsequently it had been agreed with the seller's *banto* that the silk should be weighed in baskets at the Ito Gwaisha, but afterwards tared in his, Mr. Allcock's, own godowns and not be paid for until the net weight had been settled there. He inspected the silk at the Ito Gwaisha, and found a great deal of it inferior to samples: it showed no signs of having been carefully sorted; some bales were good, some bad, and some very bad; in fact, so mixed that it was impossible to value the parcel before every bale had been inspected. No difficulties were put in the way of inspection and many rejections were made, but he had no convenient room for weighing and it took one hour and a quarter to weigh only 39 bales; the light was also very bad for weighing purposes. However, instead of carrying out the agreement made by his *banto* the seller (Kameya) informed him that the money must be paid at the Gwaisha before delivery and subsequently repudiated his *banto's* agreement altogether. The silk had not been taken away, but his seal was still on the door.

Mr. Kingdon then proposed, and Mr. Ludwig seconded:—"That the declaration of 21st. Sept. remain in force and be hereby confirmed by all the signatories, unless any should now wish to withdraw therefrom, and that all bind themselves in honour to have no dealings directly or indirectly with the Ito Gwaisha under its present rules, or any other rules that may not be accepted by the present association of foreign merchants engaged in the silk trade: also that the chairman have the power to call the next meeting."

No person expressing a wish to retire from the agreement, the resolution was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Mr. Kingdon proposed that the committee should continue to address the native silk trade direct by Japanese circulars and refute the statements published by the native press as to objections said to be made against the old customs of the trade, all of which customs had been suggested and agreed to by the middle men years ago. Mr. Kingdon therefore suggested that the minutes of meetings and other documents issued should be sent to some of the native papers.

Mr. Schultze seconded the proposition, which was carried unanimously.

A discussion then ensued as to the best means of defraying the expenses of the present association, in which the chairman, Mr. Kingdon, Mr. Thomas, and Mr. Heinemann took part, when it was remarked that some import merchants had volunteered to subscribe as they were as much interested in this movement as the silk merchants: indeed the present action was for the benefit of all foreign trade in Japan.

It was finally proposed by Mr. von Fischer, seconded by Mr. Heilmann, and carried unanimously:—"That all signatories of the agreement should pay \$10 towards defraying

the incidental expenses, and that a further call be made as soon as this contribution had been exhausted.

After a vote of thanks to the chair, the meeting dispersed; it being left to the chairman to summon the next meeting.

Mr. H. M. MILLER, appraiser to the Imperial Customs, will leave Japan by the *Belgic* on the 11th instant. This gentleman is a well known resident, having held his position in the Customs since March 1872, nine and a half years, during the whole of which time he has managed to perform his difficult duties with satisfaction to the government and the public alike.

Before his arrival in Japan Mr. Miller had been appraiser in the customs service in San Francisco for more than ten years; and he brought with him to Yokohama an extensive knowledge of merchandize and its value which has stood him in good stead in Yokohama; not a single appeal from his assessments having been made, a strong recommendation when the large list of articles subject to *ad valorem* duties is considered.

In 1876, prior to a run home on leave, Mr. Miller received the thanks of the department for the manner in which his duties had been performed; and received the unexpected honour of presentation to the Mikado. Returning to Japan after a short absence, Mr. Miller resumed his duties which are now closed with the termination of his agreement. The government are so gratified with the able manner in which Mr. Miller has discharged a difficult task, that they did him the unusual honour of requesting him to renew his engagement for a further term; but this was thankfully declined, Mr. Miller being anxious to return and settle in his own country, where we wish him the repose his long and faithfully executed labours entitle him to. Officers connected with government revenue departments are seldom much respected; but Mr. Miller will carry away with him the esteem of this community composed of almost every known nationality.

Mr. J. J. Wheeler, at the suggestion of Mr. Miller, has been appointed to the post vacated by Mr. Miller.

THAT the native press should support the actions of those whose aim is the prevention of extended commerce, has created much surprise; the more so because with the opportunities the editors enjoy of observing the spread of trade in other countries, they should advocate an opposite policy for Japan; and, on the eve of treaty revision, boldly support a deliberate and persistent violation of the clause most essential in a treaty of commerce. If express treaty stipulations can be disregarded by a body of men in an open port, there can be no law in the country to enforce, or power to observe, the treaties. Should this be the case let the treaties come to an end by all means. The question then will be, do the Japanese people wish to trade or not. If they do, will the government say they shall not, and proceed to enforce their prohibitory measures against popular inclination? This is a point well worthy of consideration.

We learn from a good source that Commodore Shufeldt, U. S. N., has received a handsome offer from the Chinese government to become chief commissioner of the Chinese navy; and it is believed the United States government will sanction the appointment. This is said to be the first earnest step towards practical reform of the navy; while the serious attention of the government is being turned to the state of the army.

## HIOGO.

(Hioغو News.)

The most recent, but certainly not the most modest or reputable, attempt of the Japanese authorities to screw the much desired specie out of the "cunning foreigner" is contained in a notice from the local land office which was circulated yesterday and reads thus:—

HIOGO KENCHO,

Kobe, 30th day, 9 month,  
14th year Meiji.

GENTLEMEN,—We herewith beg to inform you gentlemen that the rent on the ground leased you by the Japanese Government which have hitherto been paid with either paper currency or silver yen will hereafter be collected with Boo only, according to the agreement of Lease.

But in such case as you have no Boo the rent shall have to be paid with silver yen at the rate of 311 Boos for Mex. 100 in accordance with the Convention made by the foreign representatives and the Minister of Japanese Foreign Office in the 4th year of Meiji.

We remain, Sir,

Your most obedient servants,

LAND OFFICERS OF THE HIOGO KEN.

A charming air of ingenuous ingenuity pervades this remarkable document. How is it the authorities will persist in making public, and forcing attention to, the marked distinction they draw between foreign residents and their own people? The tenants affected by the notice are occupying plots of land surrounded by Japanese who pay their rents in paper; why, then, should the tenant of an adjoining lot held under exactly similar conditions be forced to discharge his liability in actual coin? All these sort of affairs shew the bent of the official mind, and make the outlook anything but pleasant when exterritoriality is abolished. That event, however, is luckily far from being "within the range of practical politics."

## Shipping.

### ARRIVALS.

Sept. 24, H. B. M. despatch vessel *Vigilant*, Lieut.-Comd. Lindsay, 985 tons, 2-guns, 1,815 H.P., 60 men from Yokosuka.  
Sept. 24, H. B. M. S. *Comus*, Capt. J. W. East, 14-guns, 2,300 H.P., 245 men, from Sendai via Yokosuka.  
Sept. 24, H. B. M. S. *Curacoa*, Capt. S. Long, 14-guns, 251 men, 2,800 H.-P., from Sendai via Yokosuka.  
Sept. 24, H. B. M. S. *Pegasus*, Comd. E. F. Day, 6-guns, 900 P.-H., 120 men, from Sendai via Yokosuka.  
Sept. 24, H. B. M. S. *Lily*, Comd. S. Grove, 700 tons, 100 men, 3 guns, 1,570 H.P., from Sendai via Yokosuka.  
Sept. 24, H. B. M. Screw-sloop *Albatross*, Comd. A. J. Errington, 838 tons, 125 men, 4 guns, from Sendai via Yokosuka.  
Sept. 24, H. B. M. S. *Encounter*, Capt. Geo. Robison, — tons, 226 men, 14 guns, 2,127 H.P., from Sendai via Yokosuka.  
Sept. 24, H. B. M. S. *Swift*, Comd. W. Collins, — tons, 100 men, 5 guns, 870 H.P., from Sendai via Yokosuka.  
Sept. 24, H. B. M. S. *Iron Duke*, Capt. R. E. Tracey, 14 guns, 457 men, 4,263 H.P., from Sendai via Yokosuka.  
Sept. 24, H. B. M. S. *Mosquito*, Lieut.-Commander Hon. F. R. Sandilands, 4 guns, 59 men, 501 H.P., from Sendai via Yokosuka.  
Sept. 24, H. B. M. S. *Zephyr*, Lieut.-Commander Pol-lard, 4 guns, 60 men, 534 H.P., from Sendai via Yokosuka.

Sept. 25, Brit. str. *Ardantiene*, Walker, 411, from Nagasaki, 20th inst., Coals, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Sept. 25, Am. str. *City of Peking*, Berry, 5,079, from San Francisco, Mails and General, to P. M. S. S. Co.  
 Sept. 25, Jap. str. *Tokio-Maru*, Swain, 2,119, from Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Sept. 26, Brit. str. *Galley of Lorne*, Branthwaite, 1,256, from Hongkong, Ballast, to Smith, Baker & Co.  
 Sept. 26, Brit. str. *Loudoun Castle*, A Marshall, 1,615, from Shanghai, Ballast, to Adamson, Bell & Co.  
 Sept. 26, Jap. str. *Niigata-Maru*, Wynn, 1,603, from Hongkong via Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Sept. 27, Brit. barquentine *Agnes Wilson*, H. Guy, 349, from Newcastle, N.S.W., Aug. 2nd, Coals, to Walsh, Hall & Co.  
 Sept. 27, Jap. str. *Kokonoye-Maru*, Dithlefsen, 1,133, from Hakodate, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Sept. 27, Jap. str. *Wakanoura-Maru*, Christensen, 1,300, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Sept. 27, Am. ship *J. A. Thomson*, Rogers, 1,344, from New York, Oil to Adamson, Bell & Co.  
 Sept. 28, Brit. str. *Sunda*, Reeves, 1,704, from Hongkong via Kobe, Mails and General, to P. & O. Co.  
 Sept. 28, Jap. str. *Sumida-Maru*, Hubenet, 896, from Hakodate and ports, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Sept. 29, Jap. str. *Nagoya-Maru*, Walker, 1,914, from Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Sept. 30, Jap. str. *Tokai-Maru*, Hogg, 1,042, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Sept. 30, Brit. ship *Lawrence Delap*, S. Groves, 1,655, from New York, April 29th., 63,000 cases Kerosene, to Jardine, Matheson & Co.  
 Sept. 30, Am. schr. *Otome*, Snow, 52, from Kurile Islands, 2,200 Skins, to Captain.  
 Oct. 2, Frch. str. *Volga*, Guirand, 1,502, from Hongkong, Mails and General, to M. M. Co.  
 Oct. 4, Jap. str. *Chishima-Maru*, Walker, —, from Yokkaichi, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.  
 Oct. 3, Jap. str. *Shario-Maru*, Kilgour, 800, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.  
 Oct. 5, Jap. str. *Hiogo-Maru*, Walker, 896, from Hakodate, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.  
 Oct. 6, Jap. str. *Genkai-Maru*, Conner, 1,917, from Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.  
 Oct. 6, Ger. str. *Prins Wilhelm*, Broisen, 868, from Nicolaski, Ballast, bound to Kobe put in here for Coals, to E. B. Watson.  
 Oct. 7, Brit. str. *Strathleven*, Pearson, 1,588, from Kobe, Ballast, to Smith, Baker & Co.  
 Oct. 7, Jap. str. *Wakanoura-Maru*, Christensen, 1,300, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.  
 Oct. 8, Brit. str. *Belgie*, Davison, 2,627, from Hongkong, Mails and General, to O. & O. Co.  
 Oct. 8, Jap. str. *Sumida-Maru*, Hubenet, 896, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.

## DEPARTURES.

Sept. 25, Am. ship *Frank Pendleton*, Nichols, 1,414, for San Francisco, Tea and General, despatched by John Middleton.  
 Sept. 25, Frch. str. *Menzaleh*, Homery, 1,273, for Hongkong, &c., Mails and General, despatched by M. M. Co.  
 Sept. 25, Jap. str. *Hiogo-Maru*, Walker, 896, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Sept. 26, Jap. str. *Shario-Maru*, Kilgour, 800, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Sept. 28, Am. str. *City of Tokio*, Maury, 5,050, for San Francisco, Mails and General, despatched by P. M. S. S. Co.  
 Sept. 28, Am. barq. *Wealthy Pendleton*, Blanchard, 800, for Portland, Tea, despatched by John Middleton.  
 Sept. 28, Brit. str. *Loudoun Castle*, A. Marshall, 1,615, for New York via Kobe, General, despatched by Adamson, Bell & Co.  
 Sept. 29, Am. str. *City of Peking*, Berry, 5,079, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by P. M. S. S. Co.  
 Sept. 29, Brit. str. *Ardantiene*, Walker, 411, for Nagasaki, Ballast, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Sept. 29, Jap. str. *Tokio-Maru*, Swain, 2,119, for Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.

Sept. 29, Jap. str. *Tamara-Maru*, Carrew, 558, for West Coast, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Oct. 1, Jap. barq. *Awajishima-Maru*, Crieghton, 660, for Nagasaki, Ballast, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Oct. 1, Jap. str. *Akitsu-Maru*, Frahm, 1,146, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. S. S. Co.  
 Oct. 1, Jap. str. *Niigata-Maru*, Wynn, 1,603, for Hongkong via Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. Co.  
 Oct. 2, H. B. M. iron-frigate *Iron Duke*, Capt. Tracey, 6,034 tons, 14-guns, 4,268 H.P., 457 men, for Nagasaki.  
 Oct. 2, Brit. str. *Galley of Lorne*, Branthwaite, 1,256, for New York via ports, General, despatched by Smith, Baker & Co.  
 Oct. 2, Brit. str. *Strathleven*, Pearson, 1,588, for Kobe, General, despatched by Smith, Baker & Co.  
 Oct. 2, Jap. str. *Wakanoura-Maru*, Christensen, 1,300, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. Co.  
 Oct. 3, H. B. M. gun-boat *Lily*, Comd. Grceva, 700 tons, 3-guns, 829 H.P., 100 men, for Nagasaki.  
 Oct. 3, H. B. M. gun-boat *Mosquito*, Lieut. Comd. Sandilands, 430 tons, 4-guns, 501 H.P., 59 men, for Hongkong.  
 Oct. 3, H. B. M. gun-boat *Swift*, Comd. Collins, 5-guns, 800 H.P., 100 men, for Kobe.  
 Oct. 4, Jap. str. *Sumida-Maru*, Hubenet, 896, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. Co.  
 Oct. 4, Jap. str. *Kokonoye-Maru*, Dithlefsen, 1,133, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. Co.  
 Oct. 4, Jap. barq. *Sumanoura-Maru*, Spiegelthal, 925, for Nagasaki, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. Co.  
 Oct. 4, Ger. barq. *Occident*, Reuter, 248, for Nagasaki, 6,000 cases Kerosene, despatched by C. & J. Trading Co.  
 Oct. 5, Brit. str. *Teucer*, Power, 1,325, for New York via ports, General, despatched by Butterfield & Swire.  
 Oct. 5, H. B. M. corvette *Comus*, Capt. East, 2,383 tons, 14-guns, 2,383 H.P., 245 men, for Hongkong.  
 Oct. 5, Jap. str. *Nagoya-Maru*, Walker, 1,914, for Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. Co.  
 Oct. 6, Brit. barq. *Forward Ho*, Wade, 922, for Kobe, original cargo, despatched by C. Illies & Co.  
 Oct. 6, Jap. str. *Shario-Maru*, Kilgour, 800, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. Co.  
 Oct. 6, Jap. str. *Chishima-Maru*, Walker, —, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. Co.  
 Oct. 6, Brit. str. *Sunda*, Reeves, 1,704, for Hongkong via Hiogo and Nagasaki, Mails and General, despatched by P. & O. Co.  
 Oct. 6, Brit. barquentine *Agnes Wilson*, H. Guy, 349, for Burrard Inlet, Ballast, despatched by Walsh, Hall & Co.  
 Oct. 6, Am. ship *Nancy Pendleton*, Pendleton, 1,449, for Departure Bay, Ballast, despatched by Cornes & Co.  
 Oct. 6, Brit. barq. *Alice Muir*, Henry, 483, for Puget Sound, Ballast, despatched by Order.  
 Oct. 6, Ger. str. *Prins Wilhelm*, Broisen, 868, for Kobe, Ballast, despatched by E. B. Watson.  
 Oct. 7, Am. ship *Carondelet*, Stetson, 1,438, for San Francisco, Ballast, despatched by M. M. Co.

## PASSENGERS.

Per Am. ship *Frank Pendleton* for San Francisco:—Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Macy, Mrs. Macy, Mrs. Dickson, and Mr. M. F. Hageman.  
 Per Frch. str. *Menzaleh*, for Hongkong, &c.:—Messrs. E. Angier, Von Larlski, A. Campbell, Abranoff, Kuriapoff and M. Gordon in cabin.  
 Per Jap. str. *Tokio-Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—His Excellency Van der Pot, (Minister for Holland), Mr. and Mrs. MacKenzie and child, Mr. and Mrs. Julius Mannich, Mrs. Savage, Miss Finney, Messrs. John H. Curtis, Binkworth, Robertson, G. Sobotha, J. Moat, Elack, Nuebe, Horiyenni, Faga, C. Pack, and 13 Japanese in cabin; 2 Europeans, 34 Chinese, and 132 Japanese in steerage.  
 Per Am. str. *City of Peking*, from San Francisco:—Mr. C. A. P. Reed, Dr. S. Kneeland, Mr. Chester Holcombe and wife, Mr. L. W. Squire and wife, Mr. M. N. Wyckoff, wife and 4 children, Miss J. Carpenter, Mr. S. Lewis and wife, Miss A. McCully, Mrs. C. W. Von Patten, Mr. E. Schraub and wife, Messrs. J. Peltzer, H. M. Talbot, E. K. Butties, C. R. Lewis, D. W. Stevens and W. H. Horstman in cabin. For Shanghai: Mr. G. R. Davis, wife

and 3 children, Mr. H. Tapp, Rev. W. P. Sprague, Miss Wheeler, Rev. L. N. Wheeler, wife and 2 children, Miss E. K. Boyd, Miss A. Stevens, Mr. W. Hildersly, Rev. J. N. B. Smith, Mr. W. B. Hoskins, Mr. F. D. Gomewell, Miss M. A. Holbrook, Mrs. M. P. Ament, Rev. M. L. Stinson and wife, Mr. R. W. Mustard, Rev. C. J. Corfe, Mr. J. R. Vincent, Rev. T. E. Graves, Young Shang Heim, Yan Phow Leo, Yan Sin Nam, Mang Bing Ching, Chin Chi Suen, Nan Kwi Chung, Liu Yuen Tai, Tong Kwai Tong, Ling Tam Gen, Lai Kwai Tong, Wang Lung Tung, Wong Kwai Laing, Chun Laing Wong, Kwong Yang Wo, Lok Hing Chuen, Ki Su Yee, Yin Psuo Su, Chang Hong Yee, Tsai Show Kee, Kwong Yung Chung, Cheong Yan Cheong, Yung Hoey, Sik Quan Luk, Yu Ho Leong, Laing Po Chang, Laing Po Shee, Leong Pi Cooke, Low Kwai Chaw, Chun Koo, Gung Man Yow, Him Chow Kwong, Chu Paw Hoy, Shin Kwai Shue, Yaw Tuk Sik, Woo Yan Psang, Wong Kwai Kah, Yung Wei Chung, Yung Tchuck, Chun Ching Pang, Chun Yue Woo, Tung To Woo, Ri Jah Woo, Tong Shung Kih, Poh Wo Chien, Kong Ow Yang, Tien Yow June, Chung Yung Kwi, Kan Ling Koug, Sun Mun Wai, Cheng Ting Kow, and Tyng See Chung in cabin. For Hongkong: Capt. A. Benning in cabin; and 512 Chinese in steerage.

Per Brit. str. *Loudoun Castle*, from Shanghai:—Mr. and Mrs. Burr and child.

Per Jap. str. *Niigata-Maru*, from Hongkong via Kobe:—Mrs. P. Heinemann and 4 children, Mrs. C. Illies and 3 children, and Mr. Busch in cabin; 3 Europeans, 2 Chinese and 176 Japanese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Wakanoura-Maru*, from Kobe:—Mr. Lorensen; and 30 Japanese in steerage.

Per Brit. str. *Sunda*, from Hongkong via Kobe:—Mrs. Chipp and daughter, Dr. B. H. Blennerhassett, Lieuts. H. C. Bunvies, H. M. Murphy, R.N., Messrs. R. A. Cook, G. C. Herbert and B. H. Large, A.M.D., in cabin; 1 Indian and 3 Chinese on deck.

Per Jap. str. *Sumida-Maru*, from Hakodate and ports:—15 Japanese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Kokonoye-Maru*, from Hakodate:—Messrs. Dimock and Johnson; and 100 Japanese in steerage.

Per Am. str. *City of Tokio* for San Francisco:—Mr. A. Hotz, Mrs. R. H. Savage, Mr. F. S. Hutton, Mrs. Kimmer, C. Freusburg, Mrs. Jas. E. Morse, child and infant, and Mrs. Mitchell in cabin; 9 Europeans and 387 Chinese in steerage. For New York: Mrs. Jas. L. Ammerman and child, and Mrs. J. L. Brower in cabin. For Liverpool: Messrs. J. E. Gladstone, Jas. Holder, H. Dickie, John D. Ford, and Geo. Hamilton in cabin. For London: Messrs. F. Hudson and S. Hudson in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Nagoya-Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Miss Kellogg, Messrs. E. C. Kirby, Ruyter, Kennedy de Piotrowsky and 4 Japanese in cabin; and 186 Japanese in steerage.

Per Am. str. *City of Peking*, for Hongkong:—Mrs. Love, Mrs. Foster, two children and servant in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Tokai-Maru*, from Yokkaichi:—Mr. Keil and 90 Japanese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Tokio-Maru*, for Shanghai:—Mr. and Mrs. Davis, and 3 children, Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler, and 3 children, Miss Stevens, Mrs. Ament, Miss Ho brook, Rev. Shimson and wife, Revd. M. P. Sprague, Messrs. Hopkins, R. W. Mustard, J. M. Smith, F. G. Ganewebe, C. F. Corfe, H. Tapp, W. Hildersly, J. R. Vincent, Fungeon Chund and party (50), Doctor Winn, wife and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. Holcombe, Mrs. Noble, Mrs. Simpson and child, Mrs. Roberts, Dr. Perkins, Messrs. A. Bing, and B. E. Wainwright in cabin; 4 Chinese and 4 Japanese in steerage. For Nagasaki: Paymaster Baag and wife, Revd. Bishop Ridol, Messrs. D. Robertson, Reed and 1 Japanese in cabin; one European and 17 Japanese in steerage. For Kobe: Messrs. Busch, F. Winckler, A. Van Lissa, M. H. Robertson and 3 Japanese in cabin; 2 Chinese and 213 Japanese in steerage.

Per Brit. ship *Lawrence Delap*, from New York:—Mrs. Eriksson and Mr. Heberton.

Per Jap. str. *Niigata-Maru*, for Hongkong via Kobe:—Mrs. Johnston, Miss Birdsell, Count Erlach, Lieut. Col. Burton, Messrs. M. Ashton, U.S.N., D. Nowrojee and servant, S. B. Bhabha and servant, N. H. Cooper and servant, Keymenlen, J. D. Carroll and 10 Japanese in cabin.

Per Frch. str. *Volga*, from Hongkong:—Mr. Koch and 2 servants in cabin. From Marseilles: General Sir P. Johnson, Messrs. Minami and wife, Yendo, Uriu, Kourakawa, Kawasaki, Yassouvi Yeghi, Ono Massakits and Kozima in cabin. From Naples: Messrs. A. Moretti and B. Gualini in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Shirio-Maru*, from Kobe:—95 Japanese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Chishima-Maru*, from Yokkaichi:—100 Japanese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Hiogo-Maru*, from Hakodate:—Capt. Blakiston and 200 Japanese.

Per Brit. str. *Teucer* for New York via ports:—Lieut. Nye in cabin; and 32 Japanese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Nagoya-Maru* for Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Nagens, child and European nurse, Mr. and Mrs. MacKenzie and child, Mr. Luis d'Agar, Miss Finney, Miss Boyd, Mrs. Erikson, Messrs. A. L. dos Remedios, Jansen, J. B. Maxwell, E. K. Buttles, R. E. Clausen, R. Mulder, F. T. Alexander, Revd. F. R. Graves, W. Heise, and 2 Japanese in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Genkai-Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Dr. Tinill, u.s.n., Mr. and Mrs. Kemp, Capt. Cheatham, Capt. Webb Bowen, Messrs. T. G. Smith, P. Davison, I. Isaacs and 7 Japanese in cabin; and 1 European, 1 Chinese and 210 Japanese in steerage.

Per Ger. str. *Prinz Wilhelm* from Nicolaski:—Messrs. Deacon and Newman; and 32 Chinese in steerage.

Per Brit. str. *Sunda*, for Hongkong:—Mrs. Muir, 3 children and servant, Mr. Guttridge, R.N., Mrs. Toland, Master Hugo Toland and servant, Captain Hare, Lieut. Bennet, Messrs. G. F. March, F. D. Palmer, and G. Sobolka in cabin; 28 Chinese and 2 Japanese in steerage.

Per Brit. str. *Strathleven*, from Kobe:—25 Japanese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Wakanoura-Maru*, from Kobe:—250 Japanese in steerage.

Per Brit. str. *Belgie* from Hongkong:—Major H. E. Palmer and servant, Mr. John Pitman and servant in cabin; and 3 Chinese in steerage. For San Francisco: 513 Chinese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Sumida-Maru* from Kobe:—30 Japanese in steerage.

## REPORTS.

The French steamer *Volga* reports:—Having left Hongkong at noon 25th Sept. Experienced strong N.E. monsoon with high sea from Formosa to Van Dieman's Straits; thence to port moderate N.E. with rain and thick weather. Arrived at 5.30 a.m. 2nd inst. Passage 6 days and 17 hours.

The Japanese steamer *Shario-Maru* reports:—Left Kobe at 10 p.m. 1st inst. Experienced N.E. to E.N.E. winds with moderate weather throughout. Arrived at 6 p.m. 3rd inst. Passage 36 hours.

The Japanese steamer *Chishima-Maru* reports:—Left Yokkaichi at 1.50 a.m. 3rd. Experienced moderate N. to N.E. winds with fine weather throughout. Arrived at 3.45 a.m. 4th inst. Passage 25 hours.

The Japanese steamer *Hiogo-Maru* reports:—Left Hakodate 6 p.m. Sunday 2nd inst. Experienced N.E. to E.N.E. winds with fine weather and high Barometer throughout. Arrived at 11 p.m. 4th inst., passage 53 hours.

The German steamer *Prinz Wilhelm* reports:—Having experienced N.E. to E.N.E. winds with fine weather throughout.

The Japanese steamer *Genkai-Maru* reports:—Leaving Kobe 9 p.m. 4th inst. Experienced variable winds with smooth sea and fine weather throughout. Arrived 6.30 a.m. 6th.

The British steamer *Strathleven* reports:—Left Kobe at midnight 5th inst. Experienced variable winds with fine weather and smooth sea to Rock Island. Thence to port fresh N.E. with cloudy weather. Arrived at 9 a.m. 7th inst. Passage 33 hours.

The Japanese steamer *Wakanoura-Maru* reports:—Left Kobe at 6.30 a.m. 6th inst. Experienced light S.E. wind with fine weather and calm sea to Rock Island; thence to port fresh N.E. wind and overcast. Arrived at 12.30 p.m. 7th inst. Passage 30 hours.

The British steamer *Belgie* reports:—Sailed from Hongkong Sept. 30th at 6.50 p.m. Experienced very strong N.E. monsoons to North end of Formosa; thence to port moderate Northerly winds. Arrived at Yokohama Oct. 7th at 10.9 p.m. Time 7 days, 2 hours and 22 min.

The Japanese steamer *Sumida-Maru*, reports:—Left Kobe at 10 p.m. on the 6th inst. Experienced fresh N.E. winds with clear weather to Oosima afterwards cloudy and overcast at 1 p.m. on the 7th inst. off Cape Sima passed German steamer *Prinz Wilhelm* steering south. Arrived in Yokohama at 2 p.m. on the 6th. Passage 40 hours.

The American ship *McLaurin* reports:—Loaded with 1828 tons coal to order. Sailed from Cardiff May 22nd, 1881, for Yokohama. Had 26 days to the Equator in Atlantic with moderate winds. 10 days to Meridian of Cape of Good Hope; 77 days to Anjer. Took N.E. trades in Atlantic in 26° N. and carried them to 8° N. Took S. S. trades in 3° N.

and carried them to 19° South; from thence moderate westerly winds to Lat. 28° S. Long. 102° E. in Indian Ocean strong S.E. trades to Anjer saw a number of ships bound to the Eastward. Passed: through Banca Straits and through China sea, and out through Basheo Islands. Aug. 26th. took a severe revolving cyclone east of Basheo Islands. Furlled all sails and hove ship too on port tacks. Midnight tremendous sea on, and very hard rain with heavy thunder and sharp lightning of a blood red colour which lasted three days. Midnight a tremendous sea boarded the ship which started rail round mizzen mast breaking pump shaft, and splitting covering board on port side, washing away bulworks and everything moveable, about decks filling ship with water, sinking in, the water went below and found 10 feet of water in hold, also found the water rushing in on port; side tried to wear ship. Wind not blowing so hard, blew away jib main top mast staysail, fore and main top sails. Then decided to cut away mizzen mast after the mast went overboard got ship before the wind and stopped the leak partially. Mizzen mast in falling carried away starboard mizen channels and main yard and did other damage to b. b. t. s. Started both pumps and pumped three days and nights, before we freed ship of water. Several men were injured during the gale by the seas and falling wreck. Fore and main top gallant mast and yard were broken. Fore-top gallant mast went over the side. After the gale was over rigged jury mizen mast and got new main yard and main top gallant mast and yard aloft and repaired things the best we could. Had light winds from the time of the gale to this port, with calms, currents variable in the Kuro Sura stream. Arrived 17th inst., passage 117 days.

The American steamer *City of Peking* reports:—Left San Francisco Sept. 6th. with 101 cabin and 512 Chinese steerage passengers, 74 tons cargo and 18 packages U. S. Mails for Yokohama, 353 tons cargo and 8 packages U. S. Mails for Shanghai.

The Japanese steamer *Tokio-Maru*, reports:—Left Kobe 5.55 a.m. 23rd Sept., 5.25 p.m. anchored in Oosima owing to strong S.E. wind with heavy swell from S.W. accompanied with thick rainy weather 4.55 a.m., 25th. proceeded on our course wind, from N.E. with thick weather. Arrived at 10.30 a.m. 25th.

The British steamer *Ardantiene* reports:—Left Nagasaki at 5 a.m. on the 20th September, experienced variable winds and moderate weather to the Straits. At 6 p.m. blowing a hard gale from E.N.E., with high cross sea, eased engines going dead slow for forty-eight hours. Barometer lowest 29 degrees 50 minutes, shipping large quantities of water which was washing everything moveable off the decks, and doing other damage, shipped a sea which lifted the skylight (the fastenings having been broken by the force of the sea), deluging the cabin and state-rooms with water, which was two feet deep, doing considerable damage to cabin, furniture and master's effects. Thursday, the 23rd, at 4 p.m., wind veered to the South, with still a high sea accompanied with torrents of rain unable to see a ship's length ahead. Friday, the 24th, moderate wind. South-west to Rock Island hence to port fresh N.N.E. wind with fine weather. Arrived at 9 a.m. on the 24th instant. Passage, four days and sixteen hours.

The following account of the schooner *Balthasar* is taken from the report of the S. S. *Ardantiene*:—Wednesday, the 21st. September, 1881. Latitude 31 degrees 20 minutes N., longitude 132 degrees 0 minute E. Boarded the German schooner *Balthasar*, bound from Hakodate to Shanghai, thirty-nine days at sea, supplied her with some provisions. Weather at present calm. German vessel reports the death of the Captain on the 6th Sept. Mate at present in charge. Experienced on the 13th. Sept. heavy gales, and lost sails, boats, &c. Crew mixed, Chinese and Manila, and two Europeans.

The British steamer *Galley of Lorne* reports:—Having experienced strong head winds and heavy sea with thick rainy weather; unable to get a sight for three days prior to arrival.

British steamer *Loudoun Castle* reports:—Left Shanghai 8.30 a.m., Thursday, the 23rd. Experienced fresh N.E. to East winds, with heavy cross sea and unceasing downpour of rain entire passage, arrived 4.30 p.m., passage 4 days 8 hours.

The Japanese steamer *Nigata-Maru* reports:—Left Kobe at 4 a.m. on Sunday, the 25th inst. Experienced strong N.E. winds with high sea and thick rainy weather. Arrived at 6 p.m. 26th inst. Passage 38 hours.

The British barquentine *Agnes Wilson* reports:—Left Newcastle. N.S.W., August 2nd. Experienced fine weather to the equator from thence strong S.S.E. gales and much rain with thunder and lightning, up

to the 20° Lat. Had light south and variable winds which continued to 34° Lat. from thence to Hachijo strong E.N.E. gales accompanied with much rain; thence to sighting Mela Head had gales from N.E. and N.N.E. with thick rainy weather, anchored off Kanonsaki last evening got under weigh 10 a.m. this morning and arrived at 2 p.m. 27th. instant. Passage 55 days.

The American ship *J. A. Thomson* reports:—Left New York May 11th. Had Easterly winds for seven days till we got the S.E. trades in 5° North Lat. Crossed the Equator June 16th. in Long. 30° 48' West. Had N.W. to S.W. winds to Meridian Cape of Good Hope running our Eastern down had light N.W. winds; thence to Anjer calms and light Southerly winds. Passed August 24th came through Sunda straits and up through Gaspar, here we had calm weather for four days had moderate breezes from E. to E.S.E. to Formosa; thence to sighting Omaisaki a succession of gales from N.E. and S.E. with thick weather and constant downpour of rain; thence to port strong S. to S.W. winds with cloudy weather. Took pilot off Cape Segami at 3 p.m. 27th. inst. and arrived at the anchorage at 5 p.m. last evening. Passage 139 days from New York.

The Japanese steamer *Wakanoura-Maru*, reports:—Left Kobe 7.10 a.m. 26th Sept. Experienced strong S. and S.W. winds with high sea, and thick rainy weather to Rock Island thence to port moderate with clear weather. Arrived at 7.20 p.m. 27th. passage 35 hours.

The Japanese steamer *Kokonoye-Maru*, reports:—Left Hakodate 3.55 a.m. 25th. Experienced S.E. winds with head swell and clear weather to Inobuoye hence to port fresh S.W. wind and fine. Arrived at 8 p.m. 27th.

The Japanese steamer *Sumida-Maru*, reports:—Left Hakodate 11 p.m. 18th inst. called at Ishashi 23rd. and left same day arrived at Koemers 24th. left for Yokohama 25th. Experienced strong Southerly winds with head swell and occasional rain showers. Arrived at 5 a.m. 28th.

The British steamer *Sunda* reports:—Left Hongkong Sept. 19th. at 3.15 p.m. Arrived at Nagasaki Sept. 24th. at 4 p.m. fresh N.E. winds and high sea with squally weather and rain. Left Nagasaki Sept. 24th. at 11.50 p.m. Arrived at Yokohama Sept. 28th. at 7.50 a.m. Through Inland sea fresh N.E. winds and squally weather. From Akashi strong southerly gales with violent squalls and heavy rain from N.W. From Oosima moderate S. breeze and fine to arrival.

The Japanese steamer *Nagoya-Maru* reports:—Left Kobe 6 p.m. 27th. Experienced variable winds and fine weather to Omaisaki hence to port fresh N.E. to East winds, with thick rainy weather. Arrived at 3.30 a.m. 29th.

The British ship *Lawrence Delap* reports:—Left New York April 29th., had light S. and S.E. winds for 14 days. May 13th. lat. 30° 20' N., long. 48° 44' W. experienced a heavy gale of wind from S.E. which threw the ship on her beam ends and during which she sprung a leak making 6 inches of water per hour whilst all hands were constantly employed at the pumps. The leak was discovered on the port side abreast the main chains under water. After jettisoning cargo and getting the ship on the port tack, we reached the leak and partially stopped it. Whilst pumping constantly to free the ship of water the main shaft broke. We rigged a temporary one which answered the purpose of freeing the ship of water. We had the N.E. trades in lat. 34° N. which carried us to lat. 8° N. Thence to lat. 4° S. calms and light variable winds to Meridian Cape of Good Hope. July 5th. 75 days out; ran our easting down in 39°. Had moderate N.W. and W.N. winds to Anjer. 16th. Aug. 107 days out; anchored for the night, got under weigh 17th. Had 6 days to Banca Straits with calms and light variable winds. Thence to Basheo Channel light S.W. winds with fine weather. Here we encountered the portion of a typhoon but without sustaining any damage, all preparations having been made. We sent down royal and top gallant yards, had double gaskets on sails, and everything secured before the gale came on. Hence to S.W. part of Japan strong S.E. winds; to Ooshima calms and light variable winds with steady downpour of rain for two days; to Rock island fresh S.W. winds with fine weather; to port N.E. winds with thick rainy weather; anchored off Yokosuka at 8 a.m. 29th Sept. got under weigh at 5 p.m. last evening and arrived at the anchorage at 7 a.m. this morning. Passage 153 days from New York.

The Japanese steamer *Tokai-Maru* reports:—Left Yokkaichi at 5 a.m. 29th. inst. Experienced light N.E. to E.N.E. winds with smooth sea and rain throughout. Arrived 8 a.m. 30th. Passage 28 hours.



YOKOHAMA, OCTOBER 8TH, 1881.

## IMPORTS.

**100 Dollars Mexican = 811 Silver Boon.**

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## STAPLE EXPORTS.

**SILK.**—Our last report bore date 24th ulto. The interval has been fully occupied with discussion of the details of the dispute between the Japanese new silk guild and foreign buyers, upon which it is needless to enlarge, except to point out that many foreigners quite unconnected with the silk trade, fully sympathize with their foreign brethren, seeing that should the guild be successful, it will at once lead to vexatious interference with all other branches of commerce. To foreigners, as usually understood, the guild have not succeeded in selling a bale since our last. A Chinese firm is reported to have purchased 88 native bales from the guild on the 8th. instant. About 76 native bales hanks have been delivered to foreigners direct from the country.

In this position of affairs no reliable quotations can be given; amongst the Japanese themselves the inclination is towards higher prices. Arrivals have come forward on about the usual scale, consequently stock has increased; we are of opinion that it is equal to fully 7000 shipping bales of 80 catties. Japanese report it equal to 6800 shipping bales, consisting of 3250 bales Hanks, 1780 bales Filature, 960 bales Kakedas and 320 bales Oshius, and other descriptions.

TOTAL EXPORT FROM 1ST JULY TO DATE.										1880-81.	1881-82
London	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	932 Bales.	955 Bales.
France and Italy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,355 "	1,978 "
United States	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,850 "	1,009 "
										4,137 Bales.	3,942 Bales.

**TEA.**—Business in this staple continued much on the same basis as reported in our last issue. Settlements during the interval amounted to piculs 7,000 and prices for the Good Medium and Fine Grades shewed an advance for the time of \$1 to \$1.50 per picul.

In face of recent adverse advices received within the last two days from the United States it seems likely that business will be greatly checked, if not for a time totally suspended, until current rates shew a decline of nearly 25 per cent., and holders, if they wish to effect business, must meet this state of affairs.

Saturday's rates rule as under, but little or no business can be expected for the future until a heavy decline is submitted to on the part of native holders.

The S. S. *Strathleven* is on the berth for New York taking freight at 60/ per ton of 40 cubic feet.

DESCRIPTION.	PRICES PER PICUL.	REMARKS.
SILK:—		
Mayebashi; 1½ @ 2 Hanks ... ..	\$ 630 to 640 per picul.	} Nominal. In business doing upon which to base reliable quotations.
"      2      "      ... ..	610 to 625 "	
"      2½     "      ... ..	590 to 600 "	
"      3 and lower ... ..	530 to 570 "	
Kakedas; Good ... ..	680 to 670 "	
Filatures; Best ... ..	740 to 750 "	
"      Good ... ..	710 to 730 "	
Hamatski; Medium ... ..	550 to — "	
Sendai and Oshiu ... ..	— to — "	
TEA:—		
Common... ..	\$10.00 and under.	} Quotations for the moment remain unaltered, but a heavy decline must take place in the course of the next few days.
Good Common ... ..	\$12.00 to \$14.00	
Medium ... ..	\$16.00 to \$19.00	
Good Medium ... ..	\$20.00 to \$24.00	
Fine ... ..	\$25.00 to \$29.00	
Finest ... ..	\$31.00 to \$34.00	
Choice ... ..	\$36.00 and upwards.	

## EXCHANGE.

The unanimity with which foreign silk merchants are opposing the arbitrary action of the native silk guild has put a stop to purchases of silk for the present. Business in imports has also being extremely small. China rates having advanced, Japan has followed suit. Silver is quoted 51½ showing a rise of ½d.

ON LONDON.—Bank .....4 months' sight.....3s. 9½d.	ON HONGKONG.—Bank.....Sight..... ½ % disc.
" " do. ....Sight .....3s. 8½d. to ½d.	" " Private .....10 days' sight..... ½ " "
" " Credits .....6 months' sight.....3s. 9½d.	" SAN FRANCISCO.—Bank ...Sight.....30½
" " do. ....4 do. ....3s. 9d½.	" " Private .....30 days' sight.....91½
" PARIS.—Bank. ....Sight .....4.73	" NEW YORK.—Bank .....Sight.....90
" " Credits .....6 months' sight.....4.85	" " Private .....30 days' sight .....91
" SHANGHAI.—Bank .....Sight.....73	
" " Private .....10 days' sight .....73½	

Paper currency, 173 per \$100.

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# THE JAPAN GAZETTE,

A FORTNIGHTLY SUMMARY OF THE

POLITICAL, COMMERCIAL, LITERARY, AND SOCIAL EVENTS OF JAPAN.

VOL. XXVIII. No. 8.

YOKOHAMA, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1881.

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## DEATHS.

On October 12th, 1881, MARY FRANCES, aged four years, and AENEAS MARY, aged three years, only children of LANCELOT and MARY MAFSEN. R.I.P.

On the 19th October, H. HANDEL, a native of Breslau, Germany, aged 36 years.

## Summary.

OUR last summary was dated Oct. 10th. for transmission per O. & O. S. S. *Belgic*. The following mails have since been received :—

O. & O. S. *Gaelic* San Francisco Sept. 30.....arrived Oct. 11  
M. M. S. *Marsailles* Sept. 4....." " 14

And the following have been despatched :—

O. & O. S. *Belgic* San Francisco .....Oct. 11  
M. M. S. *Tunis* Marseilles ..... " 15

THE silk difficulty remains *in statu*; during the fortnight which has intervened since our last issue the subject has been constantly discussed on all sides. Both parties are equally resolute and there appears to be no hope of a satisfactory compromise being effected. The Niadsukarisho have addressed a circular to dealers and producers of silk in which the most infamous libels are formulated against foreign merchants. The latter have also published a second address to native dealers and to Japanese generally. The Tokio Chamber of Commerce has also taken the matter up and harps *ad nau-*

seam of "lost commercial rights," &c. The native press have been themselves throughout—lost to all sense of shame and honour. Job himself could scarcely exercise common patience in reading the base falsehoods which have recently been most unblushingly published by the vernacular journals. There is one consolation that their character for venality and contempt of truth is so well known, that their slanders carry no weight whatever and generally recoil on their own heads. The *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* has surpassed himself or, as Mark Tapley would say "come out strong;" in fact, so much so, that we have twice given him a piece of our minds. As the silk question is fully discussed elsewhere we need say no more here, except to remark that it has afforded a curious instance of real or pretended patriotism and zeal for "commercial rights" on the part of Japanese merchants which is amusing, if not edifying.

THE poet Dryden somewhere says :—

"Hope with a goodly prospect feeds the eyes,  
Shows from a rising ground possession nigh;  
Shortens the distance, or o'erlooks it quite:  
So easy 'tis to travel with the sight."

We know not whether His Imperial Majesty the Mikado is familiar with the writings of the worthy translator of Virgil: probably he is not. But at any rate, some such thoughts as the above must have been in his mind when he penned the famous Imperial Decree of the 12th. instant. In that remarkable document he promises to grant his faithful subjects the object of their fondest desires, and to fulfil the request of their most earnest prayers, viz., a legislative assembly—only (*hinc illæ lachrymæ*) they have to wait a little longer, a short space of nine years that is all. The proclamation reads to us like a huge joke and, were public opinion not burked, the Lord of the "Morning Land" would perhaps find his production severely criticised. The idea of a monarch giving nine years notice of his intention to effect a necessary measure of reform has, at least, the charm of originality. We trust the people of Japan will not find it to be a case of "hope deferred making the heart sick."

THE Kaitakushi job has collapsed. An order was issued on the 12th. inst., that the sanction previously given to the "arrangement" had been withdrawn. This is a healthy sign, as it shows that His Imperial Majesty is amenable to the voice of public opinion and inclined to respond to its dictates.

ONE circumstance connected with the events of the last few days is noteworthy, if not inexplicable. No one was more bitterly opposed to the Kaitakushi transaction, or more strongly in favor of the establishment of a legislative assembly than Mr. Okuma

minister of finance—the "Japanese Gladstone" as Sir E. J. Reed calls him. It was mainly through his urgent appeals to the Mikado that the former was repealed and the latter promised. Yet singular to say, in the very hour of triumph, when he had virtually carried his point he suddenly sent in his resignation. No satisfactory explanation is afforded of this strange step on his part, though it appears when he attended a cabinet meeting on his return from the north, whither he had been in attendance on the Mikado he was "sent to Coventry" by his colleagues. The only reason he gives is, that he requires rest after fourteen years of official life. Other changes in the cabinet are also rumoured.

HIS Imperial Majesty the Mikado having returned to the capital the sons of the Prince of Wales will have a more cordial reception at Tokio than could have been given them had he been still on his tour. The flying squadron, to which their Royal Highnesses are attached will probably arrive here about the end of this month. The regatta and race meeting will take place during their stay in Yokohama.

As a sample of the censorship under which the Japanese press groans we may mention that the editor of the *Choya Shinbun* has just been sentenced to twelve months imprisonment for mildly suggesting that the present form of government might be modified with advantage. But the worst remains behind. The unfortunate *Mai Nichi Shinbun* has been temporarily suspended and all further publication of its issues of the 18th. and 19th. instant strictly prohibited. We have carefully looked through the copies on our office files and can find nothing that ought to have excited the wrath of a paternal, but perhaps rather too sensitive, government, except, it may be, a few lines of comment on the recent Imperial Decree in which it was hinted that nine years was a long time to keep the nation waiting for a legislative assembly. A suggestion was also made that whilst cabinet ministers were engaged in drawing up a plan of the proposed parliament the people ought to let them know the current of public opinion; for if they stand aloof instead of boldly coming forward and expressing their wishes, they will be failing in the duty they owe both to their sovereign, and country, and will also be responsible, as well as the ministers, for whatever defects or imperfections may hereafter appear in the constitution. It seems strange that the rulers of Japan obstinately refuse to learn the important lesson that if confidence, and freedom of opinion be not interchanged between the rulers and the ruled, there can be very little hope of any permanent happiness or prosperity for the nation.

## Leading Articles.

### OBJECTIONS TO THE CUSTOMS OF FOREIGN SILK BUYERS.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun*, in detailing what it describes as the abuses the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho is established to correct, has performed a duty which the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho should have undertaken itself; not merely as a matter of courtesy or consideration on the part of the latter towards foreign merchants, but in self-justification, and explanation to the producers of silk whose interests are principally at stake. Unfortunately the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* says a great deal more than the members of the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho dare assert. Our contemporary knows nothing about the silk trade except from hearsay; and not being liable to be charged with wilful misrepresentation it yet makes statements which are widely at variance with the truth. Like all our colleagues of the native press the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* has very long ears; and too evidently hears more than has been actually said. However, as the grievances of which Japanese *saitori* complain in connection with the trade in silk have been stated, a public service has been performed; and we may deal with the charges one by one, appealing to the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun's* spirit of justice to give the same publicity to this article as it did to the assertions of the native institution.

The first assertion that foreigners are accustomed to contract for, and take into their godowns, silk at certain prices, retaining the silk pending receipt of telegraphic advices from the home markets, refusing arbitrarily, and without inspection, to complete the purchase if the quotations at home do not show a profit on the contract price here, is a serious charge against foreign silk merchants which must be met in plain terms. This system, which we may mention for the information of our Japanese friends is called a system of "firm offer," has for a considerable time past been far more complained of by the large majority of foreign merchants as injurious to the entire body of native and foreign silk traders, than by the native *saitori* (who have now, by a trick of legerdemain, converted themselves into the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho). Respectable foreign firms have heard of such transactions in isolated cases, and with regret; and the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* must know that on several occasions the practice has been openly denounced in the *Japan Gazette* as calculated to discredit foreign usages in the eyes of the producer, who finds a fictitious quotation for silk and no real sale. When any foreign firm takes into its godowns a quantity of silk at a stated price, pending sale at home, the price is invariably higher than other firms feel justified in offering for real purchases; and as an artificial quotation is thus created no business can be done until the "firm offer" transaction is at an end. Furthermore, in depreciation of this practice, we have pointed out that it gives strong ground of complaint to Japanese merchants whose operations are interfered with, and warrants their adoption of self-protective measures. The complaint has, therefore, been first made by foreign merchants, who have many times pointed out the mistake directly to the Japanese dealers who have delivered silk into godowns on

these terms. The responsibility, therefore, lies with the *saitori*, who, when remonstrated with for sending in 500 bales of silk in this manner, reply by sending in 1,000 bales on the next opportunity. We aver that this grievance could not for a moment exist if the native dealer were not a consenting party. There are numbers of foreign houses here who consider themselves bound by their offers, and should the silk, upon inspection, be found equal to master the purchase is completed, even though a difference of \$100 in price has taken place against the purchaser since the contract was initiated. For corroboration of this, let Messrs. MOGI SOBEI and HARA ZENZABURO be appealed to.

The next point raised is the tare of one per cent. which is stated to be one-half per cent. in excess of what it ought to be, by means of which producers suffer to the extent of 500,000 yen per annum. We presume that by this one per cent. tare, the shirting bag in which the silk is weighed is meant; for tare on silk proper varies in accordance with the class of silk and make up, from one to four per cent. and over; the tare for hank classes being 2½ per cent. Now it must be thoroughly understood by the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* that the very men that journal says are opposed to this deduction of one pound per bag, as an abuse of foreign buyers, are the men who proposed this deduction, and who have made it a rule of trade in Yokohama since the attempted establishment of the Kiito Aratame Kaisha in 1873. It is therefore impossible that the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho could inform foreign merchants that they have considered this an abuse in the trade, although apparently individual members of that establishment have made use of the *Nichi Nichi* to put this false argument forward in order to foment the bad feeling which is kept alive by the misrepresentations of the Japanese press. If any owner of silk had ever desired to have silk weighed in a different manner by foreign buyers, it is hardly to be supposed that any foreign buyer could or would refuse that satisfaction to the owner of the silk; but the brokers in Yokohama have always refused to change the custom of trade, and properly so, until every individual broker recognizes the new custom, lest there should be misrepresentation in the interior of each broker's separate action. Has the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* ever taken the trouble to ascertain what the weight of one hundred pounds of silk delivered in Yokohama to the foreign merchant or direct native shipper would be in Lyons when delivered by either of them through the conditioning house there? For the satisfaction of silk producers we will inform the *Nichi Nichi* that the conditioning house in Lyons would rarely or ever pass that silk for more than 98 or 98½ pounds; and some times considerably less; because, conditions of moisture, independently of actual weight, are taken into consideration in European markets before delivery to purchasers; and all these losing conditions are disallowed here by the silk trade. How poor an argument it is for the *Nichi Nichi* to say that, because the bag in which silk is weighed is not quite one pound weight, that the difference between the pound deducted and the actual weight of the bag is a loss to the seller, while in reality the seller is disposing of water contained in the silk at the same price as the silk itself: a dead loss to the purchaser, and a profit to the seller. We give the writer of the article in the *Nichi Nichi* every credit for believing what

he writes; but he must acknowledge that he is not an expert in the silk trade; and that the bases of his arguments are the points given to him by members of the society, who are interested persons. We hope, in justice, the *Nichi Nichi* will investigate the truth of what we have here written.

The next point is the *Nichi Nichi's* assertion that foreigners take silk into their godowns simply for the purpose of raising money upon it for their own purposes. This is so utterly untrue that no argument can be made upon it. It is of the same character as the silly and malicious report that foreign shipping companies had combined to refuse to carry for Japanese shippers. The members of the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho know that it is entirely false; and not one of them would dare to make such an assertion in his own name.

With regard to payments made to watchmen and others in foreign godowns, referred to by the *Nichi Nichi*, if they are made they are made by the sellers of silk on their own motion and without the knowledge of the principals of the foreign purchasing houses, and must therefore appear as a bribe by the sellers for some special object of their own; and foreigners ought not to be accused of conniving at a practice so thoroughly objectionable and distasteful to themselves.

We make these replies plainly to the *Nichi Nichi* in the hope that that paper will calmly argue the points on a truthful basis; do all it can to deprive the argument of ill-feeling and temper, which unfortunately are mixed up too much with this controversy; and make use of its energies to improve foreign commerce in a proper manner; because the object of foreign merchants is only to protect themselves against self-constituted interference between them and the producers of silk in the interior; and to meet the real merchants of the country in every way calculated to promote the prosperity of the silk trade of Japan.—Oct. 5.

### MISREPRESENTED CORRECTED.

THE *Japan Weekly Mail*, in its issue of 8th. inst., published an article from the *Hochi Shinbun* embodying a translation of a memorial presented by foreign merchants to the *corps diplomatique* on the subject of the establishment of an institution for the control of the silk trade. The *Hochi Shinbun* must have procured this document from the foreign office, for it is scarcely possible any of the representatives of treaty powers to whom it was addressed would furnish that journal with a copy. That surreptitious publication of an important and unanswered document should be made is much to be regretted; and our ministers have the same justification for demanding explanations as the government had in the case of the publication by one of our contemporaries of certain propositions for treaty revision.

The document in the *Japan Weekly Mail*, being a retranslation of a translation, is incorrect in many very important details; and in one essential part. That such a garbled version should be discredited is most desirable in these days of misrepresentation; and the best way to bring this about is to present an accurate copy of the original memorial as presented to the Hon. J. A. Bingham, *doyen* of the *corps diplomatique*, which we now do, premising that our contemporary of the *Hochi Shinbun* prefaces its translation



with the following significant words, based, however, as all readers will perceive, on a complete misapprehension of the substance of the memorial. Referring to the objections of foreigners to the formation of a silk guild, the *Hochi Shinbun* says:—

"In the first place they sought to crush it by the power of the government. According to what we learn, when the establishment of the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho was first contemplated, they, making false suppositions, and uttering irrational words, barefacedly forwarded a letter to the American minister, signed by thirty-six silk merchants. It is useless to say that the expressions therein contained are not worthy to be taken into consideration; but we herein set before our readers a full copy of the document, believing that it serves to prove the profound arbitrariness of the foreign merchants."

Then followed the translation. If the *Mail's* retranslation does not err in some material points, the Japanese version of the English original is not creditable to the translator, and is really a grave injustice to the memorialists. Here is the real memorial:—

(Copy.)

Yokohama, 20th. July 1881.

TO THE HONORABLE JOHN A. BINGHAM.

Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States of America, and Doyen of the Corps Diplomatique.

Your Excellency.

We, the undersigned, merchants resident in Yokohama, beg to call your serious attention to the proposed establishment of a Silk Guild in Yokohama which will not only have all the powers of the Kiito Aratame Kwaisha (which was declared illegal and closed by the Japanese Government in the year 1873, as shown by copies of notifications which we append) but which will have even greater powers than that Kwaisha.

The object of this proposed Guild is to take charge of all silks which may come into Yokohama, store them and sell them from its own premises to foreign merchants, and to force foreign merchants to inspect and pay for the silks before being taken away from the premises of the Guild.

The Guild intends forcing the holders of the silk to sell through it, on its own terms; and to force foreign houses to buy through it also on its own terms.

We submit that the establishment of such a Guild is illegal, and is likely not only to put a serious obstruction in the way of trade generally, but to damage the prospects of the silk producers in the interior.

The names that are published as the Committee for the working of this Guild give it the character of an institution sanctioned and supported by the Government. As an instance of this we will mention 'The Mitsui Bussan Kwaisha,' 'The Boyeki Shokwai,' 'Shibusawa,' &c., whose names alone appearing at the head of such a Guild will, most probably, impress upon the minds of the silk-growers and holders an idea that they will be forced to send their silks to it, or be subject to certain fines and penalties.

This was the position taken up by the Kiito Aratame Kwaisha which prohibited merchants, who were not members, from selling any silks to foreign houses, and under the protection of the Machigaisho, levied fines and imposed penalties on all who attempted to evade its rules.

The Kiito Aratame Kwaisha never went so far, however, as to issue an edict that foreigners should not inspect their purchases in their own godowns. The rules of that Guild only imposed conditions of sale on its own countrymen. The present new Guild not only imposes similar conditions of sale, but also conditions of purchase on the foreign buyers, and yet, in 1873, the Japanese government considered the Kiito Aratame Kwaisha to be illegal.

It is well known that the influential persons who represent the committee of the new Guild have applied to the government for funds to purchase or erect buildings suitable for their purpose, and we therefore earnestly appeal to you to obtain the views of the Japanese Government on the formation of this Guild.

If the Government does not countenance or sanction it by assistance, pecuniary or otherwise, we hope that you will press the Government to issue notifications to that effect in all the Fu and Ken of the country, in order that the producers of the interior may know that they are at liberty to make use of the Guild for the sale of their produce, or to avoid the Guild as they please, or as they may consider more beneficial to their individual interests, without any apprehension of incurring penalties or fines which can be legally enforced; and that the government will, if necessary, protect the people from any attempts at fines or penalties which may be made by the Guild.

Without such Government notice being made public throughout the country, we are certain that the Guild will be able to enforce its rules on all persons in the trade for the benefit of a certain limited few to the very serious injury of the general commercial interests of this country.

We have the honour to be

Your Excellency's most obedient,  
humble servants,

Signed by THIRTY-SIX FIRMS.

The closing lines of the last paragraph but one of this document, asking that the government be pressed to issue a notification, for the information of the ignorant people of the interior, that the guild has no power to interfere with them in any way, to control their

business, or to levy fines or exact other penalties, is a very modest request, and one that any government, not "countenancing or sanctioning the movement" would be inclined to comply with, especially in view of the treaties, and the importance, at this present time, of their preservation or violation. This paragraph is the most important in the memorial; it does not invoke government interference with the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho, but merely prays that a notification shall go forth that no such association has power to give the force of law to its regulations. This paragraph, however, the *Hochi Shinbun* has incorrectly translated, and has succeeded in giving it an entirely false complexion, the retranslation reading:—"It would be desirable also that the proclamation should promise the producers protection against the infliction of fines by the guild, declaring that the guild will be suspended should it resort to any such measures."

When the government were applied to in 1873 nothing could have been more considerate than their manner of dealing with the question. Eight years later, "the vice-minister for foreign affairs," says the *Hochi*, "answered on the 15th. of August last that the government could not interfere with the Niadzukarisho." As the government were not asked to "interfere with the Niadzukarisho," but merely to declare the Niadzukarisho could not enforce its bye-laws upon persons not members it—that is, if the government were not connected with it in any manner—the refusal of the vice-minister to comply with the prayer of the memorial is significant in every respect—that is, if he did refuse as reported.

As no reply has been received from the senior foreign minister, it will be well to refuse credence to the reports of the *Hochi Shinbun*; for it is unreasonable to suppose that journal is better informed as to the result of the memorial than the memorialists themselves.—Oct. 11.

#### INTIMIDATION BY THE RENGU KIITO NIADZUKARISHO.

THE difficulty hitherto experienced in obtaining proof of the dangerous and obstructive tendency of monopolies as exercised in Japan, has been regarded by those who hold that institutions like the Machigaisho and Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho are formed rather for the furtherance of trade than to enforce regulations which, illegal in themselves, have yet all the force of law, as diametrically opposed to the assertion that these institutions are framed to limit foreign commercial intercourse to the few native brokers who feed on buyer and seller alike to the detriment of both, and to the irreparable injury of the nation's commerce. This difficulty is now removed, for the evidence contained in the letter of Messrs. S. & B., published in another column, is clear proof that the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho is a close monopoly which enforces its decrees by intimidation of such a character that the average Japanese is utterly unable to withstand its influence. The facts are simple, but they may be restated here in even simpler form. A producer of silk, not a member of the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho, disposed of a few bales to a native merchant, who resold them to a foreigner. This transaction is strictly in accordance with the treaties of commerce,

which provide expressly that free commercial intercourse between foreigners and all classes of natives shall be permitted; a stipulation the importance of which, and the necessity of its literal observance, were impressed upon Japan by Earl Russell in 1862; and reiterated, in even more positive terms, in the tariff convention of 1866. The observance of this clause, however, has been rendered impossible by the action of such institutions as those we refer to; and it is a fact few will care to dispute, that for several years past Japanese monopolists have, by threats supported and enforced by police and kencho officials, deliberately set at defiance the condition of the treaties entered into by their own government; and for their own objects, utterly regardless of the progress of commerce or the advantage of the many, they have established and still maintain a blockade of the port of Yokohama, compelling all natives and foreigners, members of their associations or not, to conduct their transactions through, and to submit to the extortions of, the guilds.

Foreigners, thoroughly acquainted with the injurious effects of these institutions, have adopted various measures calculated to procure some mitigation of the evil; and when the Kiito Aratame Kwaisha proposed to restrict sellers in their operations with foreigners, representations to the government made through the foreign ministers (the senior member of the *corps diplomatique* then being Sir HARRY S. PARKES), led to the instant promulgation of a notification which is now, under identical conditions, asked for apparently in vain.

Let us look the facts in the face. Here is an instance, which can be verified in every particular, of an independent transaction burked by the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho. If it is done in one case that comes to our knowledge we may rest assured it is done in hundreds which do not; and even this isolated transaction proves that foreign commerce is not nominally but actually, literally, under the control of the twenty-six monopolists who set treaties at defiance, and laugh contemptuously at the formal notifications of their own government. If this sort of thing can go on; if the foreign settlement is to be fenced in and trade confined at the will and pleasure of the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho, what possible value can the treaties have? It is obvious to the meanest capacity that when the government say "trade is free to all"; and a gang of monopolists come forward; countermand that decree, declare trade to be limited at their pleasure, and carry out their plans in opposition to the will of the government, foreign powers should withdraw from further commercial relations with a government unable to carry out their conventions, and negotiate new commercial treaties with the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho.

The government may urge that the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho is a private undertaking with which they have no connection, nor any justification for interference. If this is true, and (we write advisedly after careful examination of such evidences as are obtainable in a country where everything is mystery) there are substantial grounds for believing the government to be implicated indirectly through their connection with the Specie Bank and other official and semi-official companies, what objection can they possibly have to issue a second and more clearly worded notification to that of December 1873, declaring that, as the treaties secure to foreigners the right of commerce, so the same privilege is granted to every Japanese, whatever his rank may be; and that no guild

or other combination of traders has any power to enforce rules that tend, however remotely, to lessen the inalienable right of the people to do what they like with their own. If such a notification, referring expressly to the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho, had been issued in response to the reasonable prayer of the foreign merchants' unanswered memorial of July 20th. last, of what avail would be the infamous threats of ruin with which that combination of monopolists terrified an unlettered labourer desirous of disposing of his produce on the best possible terms for himself? This notification the government will not issue; they probably do not refuse, in so many words, to issue it, but in Japan we have accustomed ourselves to regard procrastination as synonymous with refusal. Whatever the reason may be the government stand silent witnesses of the actions of a guild, the existence of which is as distinctly a violation of the treaties of commerce as was the recently issued and quickly rescinded kerosine oil notification. Foreign ministers too, apparently endorse the action of the government; or perhaps they do not comprehend in its true light that although their nationals are empowered to trade by the treaties that privilege is virtually abrogated, and foreign commerce reduced to a mere burlesque upon trade, by the action of twenty-six men who enforce their illegal orders by intimidation of a class of simple people who are too ready to acknowledge and recognize the power to give effect to these threats, because they have already too frequently had their trade interfered with by the police acting under the orders of the Machigaisho.

Nothing more remains to be said. Messrs. S. & B. are prepared to substantiate every line of their letter; and the government and our own representatives are now in a position to form an accurate opinion upon the probable effect upon commerce of the continuance of the illegal monopoly known as the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho.—Oct. 13.

#### JAPAN IN ENGLAND.

ONE of the most common tendencies in human nature is that which causes us to regard our own hopes and fears, our interests and concerns, as of universal, or at least extensive, importance. Our little Pedlington, where we have passed most of our lives, and where most of our earthly aspirations are centred, becomes in our minds a vast metropolis, the cynosure for the eyes of all men. We lose the sense of perspective; the pettiest incident in our own lives, or in those of our immediate neighbours, attracts more of our attention than the wars of empires, or treaties on which the fate of nations may depend. And when we go to other places, and among other people, it is not without a sense of disappointment, whatever reason may dictate, that we find these also have their concerns, and are little disposed to sympathize with ours.

A resident of Japan who has lived for some time amongst the people, and taught to believe that the remarkable changes of recent years, the startling social and political problems which the recent history of the country presents, its arts and letters, were subjects of enduring and constant interest in Europe, would find himself woefully disappointed—*désillusionné*, would better express the meaning; and nowhere, we believe, more than in England. The

vast and complicated agglomeration of interests which we call the British Empire, makes such a constant call on the thinking faculties that the people of England have but little time to devote to the affairs, however interesting and peculiar, of a people living thousands of miles away, in whom their direct interest is merely that of a few millions' sterling worth of trade. Revision of the treaties, extra-territoriality, tariffs, and all those subjects which seem to us vital questions, excite no feeling whatever in the minds of our countrymen at home, and are as much disregarded as if they never existed. The conditions governing Jupiter or Uranus interest and excite more Englishmen than those of Japan. People read from time to time, in brief notices in their newspapers, that a nation of over thirty millions of people at the other side of the globe, with a literature and culture far older than their own, have suddenly and spontaneously abandoned their ancient policy and many of their ancient customs, and have in about half a generation, made strides which, among western nations, have only been accomplished after centuries of toil and many painful throes. But the theme excites only a languid and momentary interest; people say, "Strange country"; "How peculiar!" "What an extraordinary people!" and then forget the subject. Knowing our own countrymen, we can hardly marvel at this, when we remember how difficult it is to excite any continuous or living interest in our vast dependency in Hindostan. A war, a mutiny, a great military pageant, attracts us for the moment, but we are soon as oblivious to questions concerning the two hundred and forty millions of the people of India, as if we had no connection whatever with them. It is not for us to attempt to account for this political apathy; it is sufficient for our present purpose to note it. We believe we may assert without fear of contradiction, that more has been written in English newspapers during the past three months about the wretched LEPER, than about Japan since the restoration of the MIKADO.

It might be thought that all the books, valuable and otherwise, which have been published in the last ten years about Japan would have helped to dispel the cloud of ignorance of this country which envelopes the average Englishman. But with the exception of MITFORD'S *Tales of Old Japan* and Miss BIRD'S recent volumes, none of these works have had the slightest hold, we will not say on the popular mind, but on the minds of Englishmen of more than average intelligence and desire for knowledge. Nor were either of the works excepted read for their matter, so much as for their manner. If we select an English gentleman of average education and reading; say a practising barrister, or member of some of the other learned professions, or an ordinary member of parliament; and question him as to his knowledge of Japan, we shall be rather astonished at the result. He may or may not be aware that Japan is not a part of the mainland; he will probably know that she is independent, because he has heard of a Japanese minister in London; but he will probably be ignorant whether the population is five millions or five hundred. He will, perhaps, remember from his school-books that there is a dual government: a temporal and a spiritual emperor; although he may possibly have a faint recollection of seeing somewhere that there had been a war, which altered this in some way; but how he does not know. He knows nothing of its productions, but the chances

are ten to one, that, if pressed, he would say palm-trees, cotton, and cocoa-nuts, because Japan is somewhere in the east, and the whole east is redolent of the tropics. He knows something of its art-productions, and will be able to show a few lacquered trays, — made probably in Germany. He has also been to sales of Japanese curios at CHRISTIE and MANSON'S, and also to some of the numerous shops selling *pseudo*-Japanese ware. He believes that lately the people of Japan, from the highest to the lowest, have cast off their ancient customs, language, and clothing, and have adopted without exception those of England, and a parliament on the English model to boot.\* He is probably led to this belief by seeing the young Japanese in London, dressed as well as ordinary Englishmen, and speaking our language gracefully and fluently.

Those who think that there is more *dichtung* than *wahrheit*, more fancy than fact, in the above description, may be referred to the preface to Miss BIRD'S "Unbeaten Tracks in Japan." Amongst other questions asked this lady by cultivated Britons was:—Whether Japan was not an English colony, and Sir HARRY PARKES the governor? An individual who would put this question, would surely be capable of any of the ridiculous errors we have mentioned above. Again, we may refer sceptics to some guide-books, gazetteers, encyclopædias, and even to Mr. MOSSMAN himself, for proofs that we have not made a draft on our imagination. As we have already referred in these columns to some of these precious "guides," we need not do so now, but appeal to the *Daily Telegraph*,—the paper "with the largest circulation"—as a witness. Not more than three years ago, in one of its sub-articles, or leaderettes as they are called, it spoke of the *samurai* being denuded of their swords, because the tyrannical Chinese mandarins were afraid that their unpopular measures would cause their assassination by these armed swashbucklers. Truth, again, spoke two years ago of the leader of the opposition in Japan rising in his place in the lower house to interrogate the prime minister respecting some part of his policy.

We do not mean to assert that all educated Englishmen are in this state of ignorance respecting Japan. Many have friends in this country, and therefore know some little about it: others have visited it for themselves; but what is quite certain is, that the rank and file of our countrymen are as truly ignorant of the condition of this country in most essential respects, as they were at the beginning of the century. Nor do they seem to care to learn more about it. We who reside here know something of what this people and its rulers have done during the past thirteen years; of their noble, albeit sometimes, it may be, mistaken, struggles to place themselves on a footing of equality with western nations, by patient endeavour, by self reliance, and by a kind of sturdy independence, which generally commanded sympathy. We know also, that the course of the history of this country since the restoration,—the failures as well as the successes of its rulers,—might teach fruitful lessons to the statesman, as well as to the student of sociology; and therefore it is that we deplore the complacent

\* Lest this should be considered an exaggeration, we may mention that we have been informed, on undoubted authority, that the private secretary to a cabinet minister, in the present government, and himself a member of parliament, recently asked a question to this effect of a gentleman just returned from Japan.

ignorance and supineness of Englishmen in relation to Japan; and indeed not to Japan alone but to China and the whole east. Our attention is attracted and our sympathy excited in the most lively manner by a few score of ragged, semi-barbarous mountaineers in Montenegro fighting against Turks hardly less barbarous than themselves, while the peaceful triumphs, and vital questions of millions in eastern Asia, are utterly disregarded.—Oct. 15.

#### THE ENGLISH PRESS ON THE RUSSO-CHINESE TREATY.

COMMENTING on the recent treaty between Russia and China, *The Times* thinks the Chinese may be congratulated on a result which is no less due to their victorious campaigns in Central Asia than to the remarkable persistency which has characterized their diplomacy in the last three years. Seldom are either states or individuals enabled to recover lost possessions, but in this case, without firing a single shot, the Chinese have been enabled to recover all but a fractional part of their territory. Russia may also be congratulated on the courage by which she relaxed her grasp on a dominion over which her sway had been established for more than ten years. No government under the sun would like to have to perform this act of renunciation, and credit for it should not be grudgingly given to Russia. In Asia, the objections to a disinterested course such as she has pursued are great, for the tranquillity of the restless and subjected populations depends in a great measure on the reputation of the ruler. The treaty gives the Chinese what they want without any unreasonable concessions on their part, and with the ratification which has just taken place the last has probably been heard of the Kuldja difficulty for many years to come. The Chinese must remember that the possession of a country which has for some years been ruled by a European code of justice and morality carries with it heavy responsibilities. They can only hope peaceably to maintain their position in Kuldja by an administration which will contrast not unfavourably with that of the Russians. It is only by evidence of their undoubted skill to rule subject peoples that they will be able to retain the subject provinces which they have obtained by skill in war and diplomacy. They have now performed the last of those great military undertakings which commenced fifteen years ago; the empire is restored to its pristine limits, and the China of to-day revives the memory of what it was under the great conquerors of its most famous dynasties.

Writing on the same subject, the *Standard* says that the brilliant and unexampled military success of the Chinese, achieved against numerous opponents and under conditions of peculiar difficulty, receives additional significance from this latest triumph, won by Chinese diplomats at the Russian capital. There were few people who believed in the Russians voluntarily surrendering provinces over which they had exercised their sway for more than ten years; but this is precisely what the Chinese have obtained by this treaty. In Europe this result will naturally be set down to exceptional moderation on the part of the Russians, or to the dictates of a policy yet unfolded; but all over central Asia the feeling will be that restitution was made because the Russians felt themselves unable to cope with so persistent and untiring a foe.

The Chinese have now reached what they recognise as the western limits of their empire, and it is not probable they will seek to indulge any freaks of ambition by trying to seize land to which they have no claim. Russia may now endeavour to revive the ancient trade between the states of Turkestan and China which, in the middle ages, and at a much more remote period, contributed so largely to the prosperity of this region. It may be that Russia looks to this as a recompense for the sacrifice she has just made; but we should not be blinded to the possibility that she may have other aims in view, and may desire thus to secure the neutrality of China in the great game of Central Asian politics now being carried on between herself and England. The effects of the treaty on the internal policy of China will also soon become perceptible. The hands of the imperial princes, the so-called war-party will be strengthened; there will be less readiness to adopt the advice of those ministers who are persuaded of the superiority of western powers. There are also other questions. Trade and revenue, it is to be feared, are with the Chinese questions of sentiment. The Pekin authorities have set their faces against opium, and they would be nothing loth, as part of a programme of self-assertion, to take up the question with the same amount of persistency against Great Britain that they have shown towards Russia in the matter of Kuldja. The influences in China which would support this policy would be strong, that policy having as its main objects the exclusion of foreigners, and the maintenance of China's right to remain isolated, if she so chooses, from the rest of the world. The consequences of this treaty appear for the moment local, but the time will surely come when we shall have to regard it as a great turning point, not only in the history of China, but in the relations between foreigners and the Chinese.

In a subsequent article *The Times* enquires what probably were the main objects of the Russian government when they evinced such eagerness to strengthen their ties of amity with the Chinese? Official Russian views, it says, have been expressed with singular unanimity and consistency from the earliest times. Russia's object in Northern Asia is the monopoly of the trade of China. The trade regulations of the new treaty are therefore invested with exceptional interest and importance. The Chinese wish to alter or modify, as far as they can or dare, the obligations with foreign powers which they have contracted, and it is clear that the Russians were never more anxious to push and extend their trade with China, along the five thousand miles of frontier which the two empires have in common. When Russia during the negotiations accepted the principle of a restoration of Kuldja, it was only because she looked to obtain some recompense in matters of trade. Among the principal concessions must be placed the granting of a second point of passage through the great wall; but as the district surrounding this pass is of a barren and inhospitable description, this point is in itself of doubtful value. It is strange that Russia should be so easily satisfied, especially when we recollect how rigorous were her preparations last year to exhibit her power on the Chinese coast, and in the direction of the Korean peninsula. She covets Port Lazareff on the Korean coast, and if it only comes up to its reputation, it should prove a most advantageous and formidable naval station.

Referring to the clause prohibiting opium,

*The Times* says the Indian government should show themselves fully alive to the intentions on the part of the Pekin government which this may indicate.—Oct. 15.

#### MORE "HONEST CONVICTIONS."

WHEN the famous "Imperial Decree" was published on the 12th. inst., there could not have been any great difference of opinion concerning the promises vouchsafed therein. Whilst all were glad to find that a parliament would hereafter be established there must have been a unanimous regret at having to wait another nine years before it would become an established fact. Disappointment was also no doubt felt at the indefinite wording of the proclamation. The people of Japan, although pleased to hear that they are to have a representative assembly would have been much more satisfied had some information been afforded them as to how, or in what way, it would be convened, and of whom composed.

Reflections such as the foregoing, we will venture to say, were called forth in the minds of at least ninety-nine out of a hundred who read the Imperial manifesto. The *Japan Weekly Mail* however, in the fullness of "honest convictions" thinks, or at least, speaks otherwise. Probably he would be only too willing to range himself on the popular side and to call things by their right names; but then how can he? Has he not his masters to please? Has he not received an "order increasing the number of copies"? It would never do for him to declare his mind too freely. He must be cautious and guarded in his expressions.

The "Imperial Decree" was originally published in the *DAILY Mail* with very little comment, though every care was taken to make it as conspicuous as possible. Editorials and local matter in this part of the world are usually printed in long primer and perhaps occasionally in small pica. Our honest friend, however, made a "new departure" and set up the important document in leaded pica, a kind of type generally confined to trade, theatrical, and other advertisements. This however, was a matter of taste only, and might have passed unnoticed but for its absurdity.

The proclamation was reproduced in the weekly issue in the same style with about a column and a quarter of editorial comments attached to it. We have been so much amused and edified with this last that we propose devoting a few moments to its analysis.

In his wonted verbose phraseology the man of "honest convictions" commences by remarking that the "great fact" announced is an evidence of "change and stability." In our humble opinion there is not much sign of "change and stability" in a measure that is only only promised and not accomplished, and one too, that is not to be taken in hand for the next nine years. In such a long interval of time who knows what may happen? As we have already said we give His Majesty every credit for sincerity of intention; but then royalty and imperialism sometimes change their minds, and it is quite possible that through the influence of ministers or other causes, the MIKADO, in the course of the next nine years might see very good reason to recall the promise made on the 12th. inst. Not only that, many things might occur to prevent the establishment of a national assembly during such a long and seemingly

needless delay. Under all circumstances, the "great fact" announced fails to "strike us" as an "evidence of change and stability."

We quite agree with the *Mail* that the terms of the Rescript will not meet with universal approval, but we are not so sure that the dissatisfaction will be principally confined to the leaders of secret societies. They, in all probability, would much prefer the institution of such an assembly being postponed to that apocryphal period in which there will be two Sundays in one week. The cabinet also is not likely to regard with favour anything that would have a tendency to abridge its absolute authority. But the people at large, let the *Japan Mail* say what it will, must be dissatisfied at the prospect of having to wait another nine years for a measure of reform they have so long petitioned for. Our contemporary, however, in all probability cares very little for the people as long as he is able to supply the "powers that be" with the usual WEEKLY quantum of the "genuine article" duly prepared and pickled for export purposes.

In his interpretation of the last paragraph of the "Decree" he becomes quite paternal, and reminds one very strongly of a schoolmaster addressing a class of pupils who are inclined to be rather refractory. If they are good little boys and learn their lessons properly they shall have a holiday and all sorts of fun and amusement; but if they are naughty they shall be whipped and sent into the corner. This, in plain English, is the meaning of his obscure sentences, but our contemporary is as full of euphemisms as he is of "honest convictions."

He next goes on to say that nine years seem almost too short for the work that must be done in them and then deals in some absurd gush about "no iconoclasm," "no annihilation" and not "shaking off ancient aristocracy" which is utterly meaningless to the uninitiated, but which will probably not "fail to elicit the applause of all right-thinking men," under which term we are at a loss to guess who he includes, except perhaps his employers or wire-pullers.

The last sentence of this "honest conviction" seems to refer to a chamber of hereditary legislators. If this be the idea of the *Japan Mail* the sooner he dispossesses himself of it the better. Titles of nobility may be hereditary, but administrative ability and talent do not always accompany them in their descent from father to son. The people of Japan must know this well enough, and indeed it does not appear that they have ever asked for a parliament composed of the heads of noble houses. Such an assembly would in no sense of the word be representative. What they want is a body composed of delegates elected by themselves, who will be conversant with, and not afraid to advocate, the wants and requirements of the nation or to declare its will. If there must be an upper chamber, it will be much easier, and a great deal more satisfactory, to form one from amongst such of the people's chosen representatives as have shown themselves to be possessed of ability and integrity, in addition to being staunch supporters of every measure of advancement and progress than from the ranks of the "old stock" who have not yet got over their feudal proclivities, and whose rhetoric would probably be as reactionary as that which, to judge from published reports, is generally to be heard in—"another place."

Honestly speaking, the *Japan Mail* cannot be complimented on his style of reasoning,

unless he means his utterances to be taken in an ironical sense. If so, we are prepared to join as heartily in the laugh that this, his latest utterance, must have inspired—though at his expense—amongst a great many of his readers.—Oct. 17.

### THE NATIVE PRESS AND THE SILK TRADE.

THE attitude assumed by the native journals with regard to the silk trade would be mischievous were it not ridiculous. A free press is a mighty power for good or evil; a licensed one falls by its own weight. Journalists who are slaves to a censorship can express neither their own opinions nor those of the public whose mouth-piece they imagine themselves to be. What can be more absurd, or more at variance with facts, than the statement recently made by the *Choya Shinbun* that some members of the Liberal party in Yamato propose to re-name the *Osaka Nippo* and devote the paper to the people's rights. "All silencing of discussion is an assumption of infallibility" wrote JOHN STUART MILL. In a country like Japan, where the "powers that be" assume infallibility so far as to silence all discussion of the policy pursued by them, it is difficult to understand how a Liberal party can exist at all, still less how the "people's rights" are to be advocated. The chances are if the *Kwansei Jigi Shinbun*, should it ever see the light, ventures to publish a plain, outspoken expression of opinion in which things are most unmistakeably called by their right names, it will be either heavily fined or suppressed. Rightly or wrongly the Japanese are credited with a desire for advancement and progress in the arts of civilization as well as for the advantages of enlightened government. But how are these things to be attained if the chief source and channel of information and instruction is to be controlled in its utterances?—

"How shall I speak thee or thy power address,  
Thou god of our idolatry the Press?  
By thee religion, liberty and laws,  
Exert their influence and advance their cause;  
By thee worse plagues than Pharaoh's land befell,  
Diffused, make earth the vestibule of hell;  
Thou fountain, at which drink the good and wise;  
Thou ever bubbling spring of endless lies;  
Like Eden's dread probationary tree,  
Knowledge of good and evil is from thee!"

Let the rulers of Japan look around them; let them cast their eyes on western nations and observe the contrast which is presented between those in which the press is free and those in which it is controlled. In the one case people enjoy the blessings of the utmost civil, political and religious liberty amidst a reign of happiness and contentment. In the other bigotry, intolerance anarchy and discontent are the main features carrying a thousand evils in their train. In no country is the press more tyrannically controlled than in Russia and, as a natural consequence, no country is in a worse condition; the people are wretched, and their ruler is in constant fear of sharing his father's fate.

It may be answered by the Japanese press commissioners that attempts on the lives of rulers may be, and indeed are, made in countries where the press is free. That in no way affects the question. There is a wide difference between a political murder and a private assassination; the former is the result of party combination, brought about by real or imaginary wrongs imposed by bad government; the latter is the outcome of private

spite, vented by those who, like CHARLES GUITREAU, writhe under the sting of envy and disappointment. Such acts, as in the case of the late President GARFIELD are viewed with horror and detestation by an enlightened and a free people.

Furthermore, the government of Japan should know that some sympathy, some confidence, ought to exist between the governing and the governed, between the rulers and the ruled. The chief end and aim of all constitutional government is, or ought to be "the greatest happiness of the greatest numbers;" and how can this be brought about if public men and public measures be not open to public criticism? Is all the learning, ability and intelligence of the country so far compressed into the narrow space of the twelve cabinet ministers that the people are to take all their sayings and doings upon trust as the very essence of infallibility? Really honorable, straightforward and intelligent statesmen, so far from dreading the criticism of the press, would actually invite it, even though it may be sometimes hostile to themselves, and endeavour to regulate their line of policy by it. The press laws of Japan, as they now stand, reflect little credit on a nation anxious to emerge from the cimmerian darkness of long ages of ignorance and isolation, and to shake off the rust-eaten chains of superstition. If they have not discovered this already, they will, sooner or later, be taught the lesson when it is too late. *Vox populi, vox Dei*; but whether the voice of the people be divine or diabolical it will and must make itself heard. Signs are not wanting here in Japan that public opinion is beginning to assert itself. Why therefore will the government of Japan wilfully close their eyes to the fact? Will they never learn that a free press is a safer medium for the expression of the national will than nihilistic or communistic associations? Such organizations may, as yet, be unknown in this country; but if the rulers continue to pursue the suicidal policy of burking the press no one can say how long they will continue to be so.

It is also useless for them to argue against the use of a thing by its abuse. The latter, in the case of the liberty of the press, can always be guarded against. Whilst allowing the freest and fullest criticism and censure of individuals in their public capacity, private reputation can always be protected from defamation by a judicious law of libel.

With respect to the silk question which certain vernacular journals have taken up rather warmly very little need be said. We can assure our native contemporaries that foreign merchants take no more notice of them or care no more for their blatant paragraphs than they do for their wire-pullers. It is well known that the utterances of the Japanese press, in such a matter, can be taken simply for what they are worth which is—nothing.

These miserable tools ought, after all, to use a little more discretion than they are showing. The silk guild may, and no doubt do, bribe them pretty freely for the manufacture of such insane threats as have appeared in the columns of the *Hochi Shinbun* and the *Akebono Shinbun*; but do the parties to the transaction—that is the briber and the bribed—ever stop to consider what will be the upshot of it? The latter will only succeed in making themselves appear more ridiculous than ever. The native press has, of necessity, never been held in very high esteem amongst foreigners, no matter what Sir



JOHN POPE HENNESSY or Sir E. J. REED may have said to the contrary; but this "new departure" of theirs, if it has any effect at all, will stamp them as being utterly untrustworthy. The former, this precious guild, will in the end, find themselves the greatest losers. Seeking to injure the foreigner they will doubly injure their own merchants and inflict a serious blow on the export trade of the country from which it may not soon recover. Englishmen are not as greedy and grasping as the above-named precious prints make them out. In the language of a catechism familiar to most of them they desire and endeavour "to be true and just in all their dealings;" but when integrity is met by duplicity, and fair dealing by bad faith it is only just and reasonable that they should make a stand against what they very rightly consider to be gross imposition. The members of the silk guild alone are responsible for the present stagnation, and as they have sown the seeds so must they reap the fruit.—Oct. 8.

## Reviews.

### BOOKS RELATING TO JAPAN.

WE have received, though not from the publishers, two recently published works containing reference to Japan of so peculiar a character that it is impossible to refrain from a brief review of the erroneous, misleading, and in many instances silly chapters devoted to this portion of the Eastern World, by writers who lay claim to knowledge sufficient to warrant their appearance before the public as authorities on the subjects they treat of.

A few of the older residents will recollect Mr. E. HEPPLE HALL, who visited Yokohama about the year 1868, when the limits of foreign travel in the vicinity of the open ports were rigorously narrow. This gentleman had travelled much, and gathered an extensive stock of useful information; and we should have thought any work of his bore sufficient recommendation from the author's name. Had we done so we should be in error, for the chapter on Japan in this trustworthy volume<sup>(1)</sup> must surely have been "perpetrated" by Mr. SAMUEL MOSSMAN, whose book we reviewed a few months ago<sup>(2)</sup>. On opening the book at this special chapter, the reader is presented with a wood-cut purporting to give a general view of the city of "Yedo." Careful examination of this picture does not convey the satisfactory impression it is intended to do, because it reminds the spectator as forcibly of London in a November fog, Moscow after the evacuation of the French in 1812, or of Coomassie, as of the populous city of Tokio. Disappointed with the illustrations we turn to the letter-press and are gratified to find that Kiushiu and Shikoku (called *Sikok*) are said to be the most fertile and densely populated parts of Japan: and, although five ports are opened by treaty "only three of them can be said to be fairly occupied by settlements." These three favoured ports are Nagasaki, Yokohama, and Hakodate. The residents of Kobe,—"Sweet Kobe! loveliest village of Japan"—who are so justly proud of their

pleasant and thriving port, will be surprised to learn that they cannot yet be said to be fairly settled; while residents of Yokohama will learn with pleasure that their port is 65 miles distant from the celebrated Fusi-yama, 14,000 feet high, which "has ceased to be active since 1707, when, according to native account, the mountain arose from the level plain in a single night!!" Next to this modern mountain, as a familiar object in the empire, is the "Nippon Bass." Whether this is some friendly reference to a Japanese imitator of the distinguished brewer, whose beer refreshed our observant traveller, or not, is a question not easily solved: nor is it more intelligible than that the "Hotel d'Europe is the chief house of entertainment for visitors to Yokohama;" and "Bozengoe," near Kanagawa "has some fine temples and scenery." Yedo can be reached by the road or by boat; while a note informs the over-curious that though there is now a railway between Yokohama and the capital, it is the only one in the empire, and "we have no reliable particulars respecting its operation." The capital itself is divided by the river Ogawa into two parts called Hongo and Yedo. The British, American, and French legations are situated respectively at Tozenjee, Drumfjee, and Sakaijee, in pleasant positions. The population, it seems, has been much exaggerated, for, according to the best writers, it is not more than a million and a half! The temperate climate of Hakodate is its principal charm, and riding the chief amuse-ment of the residents. "Those who desire to study native character and customs" should visit Osaka and Hiogo. The correct name of Osaka is, it appears, Kioto; and it is the MIKADO's present capital; while Kobe is the name of a new settlement: but the writer confesses his inability to give information respecting the latter of the same absorbing interest as that which he gives about Osaka. Nor is Nagasaki neglected by this observant traveller. Intending visitors to that port will be delighted, and those who have seen it astonished, to hear that it is the most interesting city in Japan. Steamers from the "Chinese port of Hongkong" call there, while to crown all Hongkong appears as one of the ports of China and Macao as another.

Time and space prevent us from paying that attention to the novel and varied information communicated about China. Japan must be sufficient for the present, as an example of Mr. E. HEPPLE HALL's accuracy, and competence to be a guide to the unsuspecting "globe trotter."

RESIDENTS of Japan may find a fund of constant amusement in the stuff which is written in different foreign countries, England especially, about them and the country in which they live. To Mr. MOSSMAN we have referred; from Mr. E. HEPPLE HALL we have in the review of to-day, extracted a few plums. The last named writer certainly laid claim to no great pretence of completeness, and it has remained for a member of the Royal Geographical Society to present the public with a valuable work descriptive of all known countries and to lay all who buy and read his book under lifelong obligation. The title<sup>(3)</sup> is sufficiently comprehensive, but then the work fills

seven large volumes, closely printed in double columns, and consequently with abundance of space for accuracy and fulness. The date is 1875; and therefore the member of the Royal Geographical Society who appears as editor has little if any excuse for his errors and shortcomings: but of this our readers may judge for themselves after perusal of some of the facts to be found in the article on Japan; facts which have at least the merit of novelty for most of us. Perhaps our best course will be to summarise this portion of the book, and describe the land we live in, its people, their habits &c., if those who read will only remember that the information is furnished by a member of the Royal Geographical Society. Well then; Japan is known as Hipon to the natives, and its most southern part is Moninsima. Two centuries ago Corea and Loochoo were both conquered by the Japanese, who still exact tribute from them. This tribute is, according to the assertions of the Japanese, very inconsiderable, and is levied by them not so much on account of profit as a manifestation of their power. For this reason the heir to the throne of Corea, must always live at the Japanese court, and serve as a hostage for the fidelity of that untrustworthy prince. The Japanese have a fortress on the coast of Corea, with a numerous garrison; a large force is kept in readiness on an island which lies between Japan and Corea possessing, on the south-west side, a strongly fortified town and good harbour. The Japanese fortress in Corea is subject to the governor of this island, who is called an *obunjo*, and has the same rank as the governor of Matsmai. The islands of Jesso, Kunashir, Iturup, and Saghalin, may be called Japanese colonies; but, for the honour of the Japanese, it should be said that necessity only forced them to settle on a foreign soil. Now, the mode in which the Japanese came to possess Jesso was by a fair and *bona fide* purchase of part of the south-west coast from the aborigines; and in some of the villages in this region not a hut belonging to an ancient native can be found. [Our authority does not say precisely whether a hut belonging to a *modern native* exists. On this point his readers are left to form their own conclusions.] The Japanese have also established conventions with the natives along the coast of Jesso granting permission to fish: as an exchange the Japanese gave the natives a quantity of necessary goods.

The physical features of the country are not well known: even the height of the mountains is a matter of doubt, although that of Fusi may be estimated from the fact that it is covered with perpetual snow [nearly all the year round.] The chief lake is Oiz, between Osaka and Meaco: it is fifty Japanese leagues in length, a league being the distance a horse goes in an hour at an ordinary pace. The principal authorities on the climate of Japan are Thunberg and Golownin. Bears, panthers, and leopards are seen in the forests; and ducks are amongst the domesticated fowl. It is difficult to ascertain the population, but it is variously estimated at thirty, fifty, and ten millions. In external appearance the Japanese much resemble the Chinese, from whom they are probably descended. Polygamy is not prohibited; but wives must be purchased. There are three languages: pure Chinese used at court, the vulgar tongue, and the sacred language of the Buddhist priesthood. There are also three religions, the Sinto, the Buddhist, and a sect of philosophers who are, properly speaking, pure Deists. The

(1) *The Picturesque Tourist*. A handy guide round the world. Edited by Mr. E. Hepple Hall, London 1881.

(2) *Vide Japan Gazette*, April 30th, 1881.

(3) *Gazetteer of the World, Dictionary of Geographical Knowledge*, compiled from the most recent authorities, and forming a complete body of modern Geography, physical, political, statistical, historical and ethnographical. Edited by a member of the Royal Geographical Society. Published by A. Fullarton and Company, Edinburgh.

sect of Sinto believes in the existence of one Supreme Being, to whose omnipotence all things owe their existence. To this Being they attribute every perfection of which they can form an idea; but they regard his nature as too exalted to permit him to interfere in the government of the world, which is only an inferior portion of the universe: he has, therefore, committed the care of all sublunary matters to inferior beings, on whom are bestowed different degrees of power, according to the nature of the station which each of them is to fill. As these inferior duties have the immediate care of man, and of all that belong to him, they are regarded as the proper objects of his daily worship. To impress common minds with sublime ideas of this great God and his power, his images are usually made of immense size.

The months are divided into fourteen days; and our old friends, the temporal and spiritual emperors, appear again to do duty.

The army amounts, in time of peace, to more than half a million. The men are armed with bows, arrows, sabres, and spears: Muskets are not in general use. They have no ships.

The Chinese and Dutch are alone permitted to enter Japanese harbours.

[This story, we request our readers to remember, was published in 1875].

Even with these two nationalities the strictest harbour regulations are put in force. It is, however, possible that an opportunity for opening a liberal and honourable communication between Europe and Japan will happen when the two great oceans shall be united by a canal across the isthmus of Panama, but hardly before then.

These wonderful statements are taken from the article "Japan": we might, probably with some advantage, go on to quote from those on "Jedo," "Nagasaki," "Jesso," &c., with similarly astonishing results, but even the patience of a reviewer has its limits and we can wade no further through this muddy morass of fiction and folly. We have only alluded to the work at all for the purpose of affording residents in Japan, and the Japanese people who care to know what is thought and said about their country and themselves, an example of the information given by a member of the Royal Geographical Society to the world, in a book "forming a complete body of modern geography" twenty-one years after Perry's treaty with Japan, and seven after the revolution of 1868. Truly some books are fearfully and wonderfully made. In this instance our author, modestly concealing his name, cannot be classed with those who find,—

'Tis pleasant, sure, to see one's name in print;

A book's a book, although there's nothing in 't.

But his preface to the seven extraordinary volumes published by or for him should have been,—

This I hold

A secret worth its weight in gold

To those who write as I write now;

Not to mind where they go, or how,—

Through ditch, through bog, o'er hedge and stile;

Make it but worth the reader's while,

And keep a passage fair and plain,

Always to bring him back again.

THE *Ohoya Shinbun* says that forty bales of Hachioji silk, which arrived at Yokohama on the 11th, and fifty or sixty bales of other kinds were exported direct by the Boyeki Shokwai and Doshinsha, per French steamer *Tunis* on the 15th. inst. Six thousand cards of silk-eggs were also despatched by the same vessel.

## Reports.

### THE SEN SHI GAKKO.

SCHOOLS, that is, English teaching schools are not so numerous in Yokohama as to prevent the institution of a new one being hailed with pleasure by those who take an interest in the progress of popular education amongst the people of Japan. The above, which is intended to be an English High School for boys, has been established under the auspices of the American Reformed Church Mission, and last evening (5th. inst.) we had the pleasure of being present at the opening exercises. The school house is No. 48 Bluff, and it was here that a goodly company were gathered together to witness the proceedings. Long before the appointed hour the seats were well filled and by about 7.30 there was scarcely standing room. The audience was almost exclusively Japanese amongst whom we observed a few foreigners.

The "exercises" commenced by a hymn in Japanese being sung to the tune of the "Old Hundredth" in which most of the assembly took part. The Rev. Mr. Inagaki Akira, native pastor of the Union Church, then read (in the vernacular) Proverbs VIII; this was followed by prayer and another hymn.

Rev. J. H. BALLAGH then briefly explained the objects aimed at in opening another English School. He referred to those which were already in existence and quoted the maxim "*the first shall be last &c.*" The first English school was opened by Dr. Hepburn under the auspices of the American Reformed Church Mission upwards of 18 years ago in connection with the first native church. From its educational work very creditable results had been attained. The new school was a young infant of only two days old; it had its career before it. Their object was to afford a higher standard of education founded on Christian principles under the superintendence of one who already had elsewhere made a good record. The reverend gentleman then briefly reviewed the progress of education since the establishment of the first school before referred to and, with regard to the new venture, expressed himself as confident of success; a large number of scholars had already been enrolled, and the work was commenced with such cheering prospects as he trusted might justify the hope that the "first shall be last and the last first."

Professor WYCOFF master of the new school briefly explained the system of teaching he proposed to pursue. As he had been only a week here his plans were as yet undeveloped. His rule, he said was to teach sound and useful things first, and ornamental ones afterwards; but above all, his desire was to bring souls to Christ. He would combine secular instruction with religious training and he hoped the half prophecy expressed by Mr. Ballagh would eventually be realized.

The Rev. J. SOPER of the Methodist Theological School then gave a brief address in Japanese, in the course of which he said he wished the institution all success. He regarded education as next in importance to religion; without education there could be no intelligent conviction. On the other hand religion without knowledge could be nothing more than a degenerating superstition.

The Rev. Mr. TAMURA, teacher in the Tsukiji English High School, who also spoke in Japanese, next addressed the meeting. He

referred to the spread of education in Japan under the new government. The revolution upwards of 14 years ago heralded the dawn of civilization and progress, the introduction of the newspaper press, the spread of education and advancement in the arts and sciences. Many laudable efforts on the part of the government for the spread of popular education were rendered futile through neglect of moral training or the education of the heart; that is, that morality had not advanced in proportion to intelligence. Like the wings of a bird, or the wheels of a coach the two systems of education (i.e. those of the head and heart) must go together. This institution was intended to refine the minds and manners and to purify the hearts of those who attended it. As he formerly rejoiced at the establishment of a Methodist school in Tsukiji so now he rejoiced at the inauguration of this one as at the birth of a new brother. He hoped that ten years hence this school would be able to produce a prime minister and, as merchants are said to be rather inferior, some good merchants as well.

Another hymn was then sung after which

Rev. Dr. VERBRUCK gave an able and eloquent lecture on the advantages of education. As he also spoke in Japanese, we were rather at a disadvantage but, as far as we could understand, the sum and substance of his address was education in its physical, mental and moral divisions, especially the two latter. After dilating upon the importance of each and all he pointed out the fallacy of Confucius's theory that "three years study would make it next to impossible not to become a good man." This and sundry other of the Sage's maxims he showed—very much to the amusement of his Japanese audience which was largely composed of scholars and educated men—were utterly fallacious. No amount of mere study of letters or sciences could make a good man. Study of religious systems might make converts; but a good man must be made such by the education of his moral nature—his conscience. Science could not enlighten that. It needed an ultimate and unchangeable standard, and that standard was found alone in the Revealed Will of God—the teaching of Jesus Christ. His axioms such as "*Love thy neighbour as thyself.*" "*Do to others as ye would have them do to you.*" "*Love your enemies*" depended not upon any science or special study whatever. They commended themselves to the universal conscience of man as right and good. He agreed with the previous speakers in their remarks on the necessity of the union of moral with intellectual education and congratulated those present on the objects announced as the purpose of this school. He also counselled the pupils to guard against the idea that moral education, like mental, consisted in going over a subject or even examining it and then laying it aside as might be done with ordinary studies. Moral training was something to be constantly practised, and its good fruits of happiness and usefulness were to be practically exhibited in their every day lives.

This address, though abounding in Chinese and other technicalities, evidently gave great satisfaction to his auditors, as we are informed is the case with all the learned Doctor's public efforts, owing to his painstaking care in their preparation, and his ease and fluency of delivery.

Prayer was then offered by Mr. Kumano, of the Union Church and a representative of the Woman's Union Church Mission School. He was followed by a voluntary

prayer from a representative of the Ferris Seminary, in which the Divine blessing was earnestly sought on behalf of the pupils from all parts of the country who may hereafter be trained up in the new school. A Hymn was then sung and this interesting meeting was brought to a close by the benediction being invoked by the Rev. Dr. Verbeck.

### JAPANESE PUBLIC MEETING.

A public meeting of Japanese was held at the Machi Gaisho, on Thursday evening, 6th. instant.

The object of the assembly was to advocate and support the cause of native merchants in the present silk difficulty. The crisis is one that is anxiously watched by both Japanese and foreigners; a crowded house was therefore a matter of course. The number present is estimated to have been about 800.

The speakers were Mr. Fujita Mokichi, editor and proprietor of the *Hochi Shinbun* and five others who are not well known, three of them being young students.

The subject matter of the speeches was limited to the supposed arbitrary proceeding of foreigners in connection with the silk trade and the speakers strongly urged native dealers to persist in their opposition to the last.

It would be superfluous to reproduce any of the addresses as they were nothing more than a reproduction of the accusations which have often been made against foreign merchants in the columns of the vernacular press. One of the orators dealt in metaphor. He compared commercial rights to the string by which the holder can raise or lower a kite at pleasure. Hitherto this string, that is the commercial rights, has been held by foreigners by whom our trade has been regulated inasmuch as market prices have been raised or lowered by them. But now native merchants insist on holding the string themselves.

One circumstance was noteworthy; that in attacking foreigners the speakers appealed more strongly to the patriotism than the reason of their hearers.

### CRICKET.

#### YOKOHAMA vs. THE FLEET.

This match played on Saturday afternoon last (8th. inst.) resulted in another victory for the home team. The Naval side was not nearly so strong as had been anticipated and was sadly deficient in bowling which to some extent may account for the result of the match. Towards the end of the afternoon it was only too apparent that Mr. Stephens was completely tired out: and there was no one to relieve him, all the other available bowlers having been tried at the far wicket. The navy won the toss and went in about 2 p.m. to the bowling of Mr. Strange and Mr. W. B. Thomson. There was nothing worthy of mention in the batting, but we think a far better result would have been achieved if Thornton (who shewed good style both in batting and bowling) had been sent in earlier during the game. "Last in" is a thankless task, especially to any one that can bat. Mr. Penny, (who has frequently made large scores against equally good teams) succumbed for a total of only 13 and the innings was closed shortly before three p.m. with a total score of only 48 runs. Messrs. Veitch and Mollison then took the wickets for the Yokohama side and the latter was speedily disposed of by Mr. Stephens (after

3 wide balls) the first wicket falling for 3. Mr. Veitch shortly followed suit by giving an easy catch; two wickets for 13. Mr. Thomson was next caught behind the wickets, only contributing 5 to the score. At this point of the game Mr. Trevethick and Dr. Wheeler made a stronger stand and showed perhaps better play than we have seen for a long time. The former gentleman certainly deserved every run that was accredited to him—his "four" hits being exceptionally well and strongly played. The "Doctor" batted very carefully and generally contrived to place his hits beyond the reach of the field and made two or three particularly good cuts among the slips. After a rather dull and threatening afternoon, the rain commenced shortly after half past four and at 5 o'clock it was agreed to terminate the match. The total score for the home team then stood 144: of which Mr. Trevethick and the Doctor had the satisfaction of contributing respectively 81 and 45 both *Not out*. The following is the score:—

#### THE FLEET.

Mr. Penny, Curacao, Run out.....	13
" Stephens, R. N. Yard, Bowled, Strange.....	2
" Brittan, Albatross, Bowled, Thomson.....	1
" Welsh, Zephyr, Bowled, Strange.....	1
" Moffett, Curacao, L. B. W., Thomson.....	1
Lt. Groube, Albatross, c and b. Strange.....	4
Mr. Rees, Curacao, Bowled, Thomson.....	0
" Dundas Zephyr, not out.....	3
Lt. Tate, Vigilant, c Strange Thomson.....	1
" Braethwaite, Curacao, Bowled, Strange ..	5
— Thornton, Albatross, run out.....	8
Byes 2. Leg Byes 1. Wides 6.....	9

Total..... 48

#### BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	Balls.	Runs.	Maiden overs.	Wickets.	Wide Balls.
W. B. Thompson	57	10	5	4	3
F. W. Strange....	55	29	0	4	3

#### THE YOKOHAMA CRICKET CLUB.

Mr. Veitch, c Tate, b Stephens.....	0
" Mollison, Bowled, Stephens.....	4
Dr. Wheeler, not out.....	45-(1)
Mr. Trevethick, not out.....	81-(2)
" W. B. Thomson, c Stephens, b Thornton 5	
" Duff, Dodds, Sutter, Strange, J.H. Thomson, Hearne, did not bat.....	
Byes 2. Wides 7.....	9

Total.....144

#### BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	Balls.	Runs.	Maiden overs.	Wickets.	Wide Balls.
Stephens	125	57	3	2	5
Thomson	60	28	2	1	1
Moffett	35	27	0	0	1
Penny	30	23	0	0	0

(1) Including twelve 2s.

(2) Including three 4s, four 3s and thirteen 2s.

### THE FOREIGN SILK-MERCHANTS' ASSOCIATION.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SILK MERCHANTS, HELD AT THE ROOMS OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, ON THURSDAY, THE 13TH. OCTOBER, 1881.

Present:—Messrs. Wilkin, (Chairman) Reid, Von Fischer, Forbes, Fraser, Taylor, Heilmann, Thomas, Walsh, de Bavier, Hurlimann, Paul Heinemann, Guisani, Abegg, Ludwig, Merian, Middleton, Mollison, Biagioni, Harmand, Donrille, Scheidt, Allecock, Vivanti, Kingdon, Chamonard, Schultze, Burchard, Wolff, Lindsley, Chavin, Grosser, T. Walsh, Johnstone, Gay, Jas. Walter, and Gribble (Secretary).

After the minutes of the last meeting had been read confirmed.

THE CHAIRMAN said:—We have no reply from the guild to our letter to it of 30th. Sept., nor has there been any further direct communication from any of its number either official

or unofficial. Some of the native import merchants have I may mention, volunteered their services to endeavour to mediate,—to suggest, as they say, a compromise. They ask whether supposing the guild would be willing, regardless of expense, to provide suitable go-down accommodation in the foreign settlement as a temporary measure, foreigners would consent to buy through the guild. It is needless to remark that this means a compromise in which we yield nearly every thing, and they only the minor point of one of the inconveniences.

Thus in spite of their reiterated request, the committee are still without any statement from the guild itself as a body, as to its causes of complaint against buyers.

A circular address to the silkowners, however, has been issued by it, containing infamous and slanderous statements. The committee have thought it right to take some individual notice of this, and they have accordingly addressed the following letter to Messrs. Hara and Sobi:

"Yokohama, 11th Oct., 1881.

"Messrs. HARA ZENKABURO and MOGI SOBEI, Yokohama.

"Dear Sirs,—We write to you on behalf of the foreign Silk Merchants of various nationalities in Yokohama.

We have seen a translation of a document dated in this month, and said to be signed by all the members of the *Kito Urikomi-doisy* of Yokohama in which very serious charges are made against the foreign silk merchants.

Now we write to you personally because you have done a large business in Silk during a great many years: most of us have known you for a long period, some of us for twenty years nearly, and during that time we have been on friendly terms with you, and have had large transactions with you.

And we would ask you if your names are signed to the above document, and if they are, we have further to ask you to tell us particulars and instances in which the things spoken of in that document have been done.

It is necessary either that what is stated in that document should be proved to be true, or that it should be withdrawn as false. We cannot allow it to remain as it is."

We await your reply, and are.

Dear Sirs,

for the Silk Merchants of Yokohama,

"A. J. WILKIN,

"TOM THOMAS,

"E. DE BAVIER,

"A. WOLFF,

"N. P. KINGDON."

They have written to these two gentlemen, because they have been for a long time prominent silk dealers, and because as individuals they have been well known to most of us in a friendly way for a good many years.

No reply to this has yet been received, and should no reply come, it will be necessary to consider what further steps should be taken.

I for my part, in commenting upon the method in which silk dealers have carried on their business with us the last 15 or 20 years, have refrained from mentioning names, but in case of need, I am quite prepared to give names and details of what I know of the doings in some of the silk shops.

We do not assume to ourselves that we are perfect; we are quite ready to admit that there may have been abuses on the foreign side; but let it be said that the bulk of those abuses could not have grown up had it not been for the trickery of the sellers, and that they would disappear for the most part if they would deal honestly.

Mark, too, the double facedness exhibited in this address:—

To us, the directors of the Guild write on 26th. September:

"Our principal object in the establishment of this society is really to improve the quality of silk, and facilitate business between both parties, and moreover to promote mutual prosperity, and with no other intention."

To the silkowners they write setting forth in full these false accusation against foreigners, and adding,

"Besides, there are some indirect advantages: badly prepared silk cannot be disposed of;—owners will therefore be obliged to select good qualities," and so forth.

And let me further tell you, and the silkowners too, what the promoters of the guild have stated to me again and again during the past few weeks, as their reason for the establishment of the institution. When I have pointed out to them the annoyance, loss, and discredit, which arises from their system of false musters, and that if they proceeded on an honest basis, the trade would go much more smoothly, they have with one voice replied. "We cannot, we dare not,—the owners of the silk insist on our showing false musters;—if we were to insist on an honest muster, then our constituents would leave us and go to some other house who would do as they wished."

In vain I have urged that honesty would prove the best policy;—silkowners would certainly go to the agents who most readily sold their silk,—and most certainly to those agents where there was least trouble about musters would foreigners give the preference.

But it is a sign of a bad cause when its advocates have to resort to such an amount of popular clamour and mud throwing. Never mind, gentlemen, better men than we have had more mud thrown at them, and it will all brush off when it is dry. The people are easily misled for a time, but a reaction will come.

In a more polite way, equally incorrect statements, according to newspaper reports have been made in the Tokio Chamber of Commerce, and by those who know better.

It is, however, refreshing to see a speaker, taking his stand upon such sound political-economy, as to testify that foreign buyers have a function, and that owing to their presence a higher price and ready sale is secured. A pity, though, he does not carry on his reasoning to a conclusion, instead of turning off to unauthorized deductions and assertions. It is possible, as he says that in any case their silk will find its way to Europe and America, it is also possible that it will not; but surely if foreign buyers have the function he speaks of, it is the interest of sellers to make the sale easy, pleasant, and honourable: instead of as it now is, difficult, unpleasant, and disgraceful. That is the way to make reforms; that is the way to do what Japan desires,—obtain an enhanced value for her produce. The produce of Japan is no necessity to the world. Up to twenty years ago it had no existence in foreign markets; and if this day Japan were blotted from the map, in a year's time it would be forgotten commercially that there was such a thing as Japanese silk. Indeed in our own experience we have again and again seen some special classes of it neglected for a year or two at a time.

It is not for sellers, and especially for sellers whom we cannot trust, to impose their terms upon us. Let us clearly understand our position. Here we have a guild of sellers dictating to us certain terms upon which we shall buy their produce;—and who are they, and what are their terms? They are men who, several of them have systematically and every day the last 15 or 20 years, attempted to trick us into paying more for their silk than it is worth; and

they demand that we shall virtually place ourselves in their hands, that our time and convenience shall be of little or no account, that they themselves shall hold everything in their control,—"recover," as the cant phrase is, "their commercial rights."

And we reply, we will not. For years you have got capital prices from us for your silks. There is no pretext for your demands,—there is no precedent in the civilized world for them. We will do business on fair, honorable terms in accordance with those which have been practised in commercial centres ere Japan was in the swaddling clothes of her commercial existence,—and on no other.

The Committee have, however, attempted to deal with these false statements in another way. In issuing a second address to producers and dealers,—for assistance in which they have been mainly indebted to the same gentleman as before,—they have adapted it to meet and refute in a quiet, but clear and positive way, the slanderous accusations contained in the Kiito Urikomi-doiya's circular.

I may also say, that, although we have not yet seen opportunity to address the united *corps diplomatique*, as a British subject I have addressed some communications to H. B. M.'s *Chargé d'Affaires*, Mr. Kennedy. When we see, as we did the other day, a *posse* of policemen summoned to do the behests of the guild, it is time that we knew how far it has power or not to inflict pains and penalties upon those who dare to do business without its intervention.

Finally we have to submit to you a suggestion that now would be an appropriate time to memorialize our respective ministers on the subject of the restrictions placed upon foreigners. The Japanese have all the benefits of contact with foreign commerce: foreign vessels, telegraphs and mails, place them in communication with the rest of the world upon equal terms: they have every foreign appliance which they can use: moreover if Japanese go to Europe or America, they are free to buy or sell, and to go where they please: and in contrast to all this, foreigners on Japanese shores are debarred from almost all reciprocal advantages.

A memorial embodying such representations has been just drafted, and will now be read to you. It is proposed that when the terms of it are settled, it should be sent round for general signature.

Now, gentlemen, I am not downhearted about the issue of this struggle. I have confidence in the power of truth and right. Sometimes it is weeks, sometimes, it is years, sometimes it is generations, but in the end truth will come out and the right will prevail. Every day the truth and the right are slowly establishing themselves in the world.

I have never been so proud of our community as I am at this time. People will see that we of Yokohama are of sterner stuff than they thought for, and are not controlled by purely selfish motives, each seeking advantage for himself. And if we maintain this attitude, I feel sure that when these difficulties have passed away, we as a community will be the better for having stood our ground through them, and that our relations with Japan and the Japanese will thereby be placed upon a more satisfactory footing than heretofore.

Mr. Kingdon proposed, and Mr. Walsh seconded that the resolution of the last meeting be again renewed, viz:—

"That the declaration of 21st. Sept. remain in force and be hereby confirmed by all the signatories, unless any should now wish to withdraw therefrom, and that all bind themselves in honour to have no dealings directly or indirectly with the *Ito-gwaisha* under its present rules, or any other

rules that may not be accepted by the present association of foreign merchants engaged in the silk trade: also that the chairman have the power to call the next meeting."

No person expressing a wish to retire from the agreement, the resolution was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

The draft of a letter was then read, proposed to be addressed to the *Doyen* of the *corps diplomatique*, drawing attention to the political bearing of the present controversy in the silk trade; which, it was suggested, should be signed by all members of the present association, and sent to the Hon. J. A. Bingham for submission to his colleagues.

As a result of the discussion which ensued it was proposed by Mr. Walsh, seconded by Mr. Heilmann, and carried unanimously: That the matter be referred to the Committee, who would take into consideration the suggestions made at this meeting; and after completing the letter, either circulate it, or call another meeting to approve of its contents.

It was then proposed by Mr. Shultz, seconded by Mr. Von Fischer and carried: That the letter should be sent for signature to all members of the foreign mercantile community and bankers in Yokohama.

The Chairman informed Mr. Allcock that during the past few days a merchant had confirmed to him the agreement made by Mr. Allcock with Kameya's *banto*, as to the delivery of the silk which Mr. Allcock had referred to at the last meeting. The dealer told him that he was present when the agreement was made.

Mr. Allcock stated that, for all that, his silk had disappeared, his seal had been removed from the door, and Mr. Kameya had entirely repudiated his *banto's* agreement.

The Chairman asked those present to meet again at the same place on Thursday next at 4 p.m., after which the meeting broke up.

## Correspondence.

### INTIMIDATION BY THE RENGU KIITO NIADZUKARISHO.

To the editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

SIR:—I, a member of the firm of S. and B., happening to be in conversation with a Japanese, exclusively a buyer of imports, on the subject of the present dead-lock in the silk trade, stated to him my conviction that such was the perfect system of blockade enforced by the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho that no Japanese, however willing, could possibly deliver silk to a foreigner without the consent of that institution, and that such consent would be withheld.

My Japanese friend not believing that things had come to such a pass and anxious to settle this point at issue, voluntarily agreed to deliver to me a small parcel of silk which he would buy at a market town close at hand. The price was settled and as earnest money I paid about 30 per cent. of the whole value.

The silk was duly bought and came to Kanagawa from whence the import man had intended to convey it himself to his own home and subsequently to my godown. On proceeding to Kanagawa, however, it was discovered that the silk by some mistake had been taken to the Kiito Aratame Kwaisha in Yokohama, though no lien existed on the silk. From this moment the trouble began.

The attendance of my friend was repeatedly requested at the Rengo where his object and



motives in bringing silk to Yokohama were thoroughly investigated; and full confession was made by him as to the ultimate destination of the parcel.

Day after day he was requested to return on the morrow, and even with promises that the silk would be delivered to him. All this delay was in order to give the Kwaisha time to get at the original seller. He was found without difficulty and received the following admonition, or in words to this effect. "If you sell your silk to this import man who intends to sell it to a foreigner you cannot become a member of this association; you will be prohibited from obtaining advances on silk, and you will no longer be allowed to do business in that staple.—In short, you will be a ruined man."

After receiving this caution he was informed that now, if he wished still to fulfil his contract with the import man, he was at perfect liberty to do so.

The result is not to be wondered at. The original seller begged hard that the import man would give up the silk; and this the latter did though reluctantly, as unfortunately there was some family connection between them.

My friend, who is a remarkable man amongst Japanese, in that he invariably keeps his agreement, expressed his shame and disgust that in this instance his word had not been as good as his bond; and that he was prepared to pay for his breach of contract.

We thought this statement made by a member of our firm might be of interest in showing how intimidation is practised by the Rengo.

We remain,

Yours faithfully,

S. & B.

Yokohama, 13th. Oct., 1881.

THE NICHU NICHU'S CLEARING HOUSE.

To the editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

DEAR SIR:—In your issue of the 12th. instant I saw a translation from the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* referring to the establishment of a silk clearing-house at Canton wherein the inspection and weighing of silk is said to take place and which had been called into existence by the foreign merchants of that place for their own protection.

When I read this statement of the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* I doubted the correctness of the same and on enquiry from a gentleman "who is in the silk-trade" and has quite recently arrived here from Canton,—not the Mr. Hewlett, mentioned by the *Nichi Nichi*—I find that no such clearing-house exists in Canton.

What has been established lately by the determined resolution of the foreign merchants of Canton is a silk condition-house for the purpose of compelling the Chinaman to have his silk weighed there before the foreign merchant has to pay for it.

The buying of silk is still done as heretofore at the seller's house on sample shown and while the inspection is going on at the foreigner's godown, say for example of 50 bales, about 5 bales of these are sent to the condition-house in order to ascertain how much of moisture there is in the silk and by that process the actual weight of the whole 50 bales is found out, the seller allowing besides a draft of 2 per cent. to the buyer.

The quality of the silk on inspection at the foreigner's godown is generally found according to sample or samples first shown, and little or no trouble is encountered in this respect as is the case almost with every parcel of silk sold to us here.

The reason that suggested the establishment of such a condition house in Canton was, that buyers of silk have lost in wet seasons as much as from eight to nine per cent on their shipments by the seller having exposed his silk to the moisture of the atmosphere as much as possible in order to make an extra profit out of the foreigner.

The facts as stated above show clearly that no comparison whatever can be made between the Canton weighing or condition-house and the Yokohama Ito Kwaisha; the former was created by the foreign houses in Canton for their protection against the dishonesty of the native seller, whereas the latter is to all intents and purposes a "monopoly" through which all silk shall pass in future, to be inspected as well as weighed at their premises, and to which "monopoly" official countenance is undoubtedly given.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

TRUTH.

Yokohama, Oct. 15th., 1881.

## Occasional Notes.

THE following is a translation of a circular addressed to silk owners in reply to one recently published by foreign merchants:—

GENTLEMEN,—Indescribably absurd abuses have existed in the silk trade which is our staple export; foreigners have engrossed our commercial rights and the country has sustained a great loss. We, as you are aware, have been grinding our teeth in indignation and have long hoped to abolish these bad customs. The time has now come. The Rengo Kiito Ni-Adzukurisho has been established and the scheme has been approved by you.

But this establishment is inconvenient to foreigners who have insolently declared that it is improper and arbitrary, and they have done all in their power to hinder its operations. Thirty-six of them have formed a combination and have announced to the Niadzukurisho that they have decided to purchase no silk whatever on the terms stated in their rules. This resolution, they have published in the native and foreign papers.

They recently distributed a circular amongst producers and dealers in silk in order to deceive them by this skilfully concocted document the substance of which however, is too comprehensive to be given at length.

Foreigners assert that free transactions are advantageous; that hitherto existing customs are good and convenient, whilst the establishment causes the price of silk to fall in the interior and the entire profits to be absorbed by a few.

They express their willingness to transact business creditably and honorably with those who will sell goods to them direct, and they at the same time assert that there are many honorable men amongst foreigners.

These statements are nothing but a stratagem to win you over to their side. We take for granted that you are not deceived by their circular. But in case some of you may not be acquainted with the actual condition of business, and may be unsettled in mind, we will briefly state how matters stand, and thereby remove all doubt.

We shall refer to the most remarkable instance of arbitrary conduct on the part of foreign merchants.

They used to receive silk in their godowns after settling its price. They would then inspect it and the transaction would be closed. Whilst the silk was in process of inspection in their godowns they paid nothing and gave no receipt to the dealers for depositing it. This fact alone is sufficient to prove the impropriety of the transaction. For the purpose of speculation they detained goods in their godowns for a long time and then refused them. In some instances they took in as much as 800 bales and borrowed money from the banks on it. After their purposes had been served they gave back the goods to the dealers telling them they did not require them. The latter had then to incur the trouble and expense of taking back their silk. If they objected to do so they were threatened with violence. Foreigners received an allowance for tare which makes our loss not less than one catty for each bale which in the aggregate amounts to a total of from \$450,000 to \$460,000.

These are the profits which are so improperly absorbed by their greed, and are the reasons why they consider existing customs so good and convenient—that is, good and convenient for themselves but not for our countrymen. The rules of the Niadzukurisho will put a stop to the above absurdities.

Foreigners complain that the weight of goods bought at the establishment was 93 catties short in one hundred bales. This discrepancy arose from a different system of weighing being followed by each party. Is not this an advantage for us? Many other advantages are indirectly secured by the establishment, viz:—

1.—Improvement in the quality of silk as an inferior article cannot be sold elsewhere.

2.—Facility for obtaining advances from banks on the credit of the company, thereby increasing the production of silk.

These are public advantages not selfish ones. Therefore we maintain that the assertion made by foreigners to cause you to believe that the action of the establishment is selfish and only intended for the aggrandisement of a few, is mean and contemptible.

Of course, we do not believe that any of you are deceived. But now is the time for the great undertaking to be commenced, but if the first step be allowed to fail it will be impossible to save the scheme from frustration.

We request that you will be persistent in the object of recovering our commercial rights and thereby gain permanent, and impartial advantages for all

THE ASSOCIATION OF WHOLESALE  
MERCHANTS YOKOHAMA.

TO ALL SILK OWNERS.

October 1881.

THE *Chingai Bukka Shinpo* discourses as follows on the silk question:—In the difficulty that has arisen between native and foreign silk merchants it is always important to know the price of silk ruling abroad. We therefore made special enquiry through our branch house in London and received the following telegram on the afternoon of the 7th. inst:—"London, Demand for silk is very active and Mayebashi No. 2½ fetches 18s. 6d. (about \$570 in Yokohama) tending still to rise."

Such information must have reached foreign merchants; if so it will be impossible for them to maintain their present combination. The Chinese, who have always a keen eye for profits began to buy silk as soon as they heard of the good condition of the silk market

abroad. Fifteen bales of best Shinshiu were settled at \$622½ and 23 of ordinary Shinshiu at the same price, whilst 27 of Mayebashi realised \$570. It is said that 600 or 700 bales will be exported by the first opportunity.

A foreign missionary residing in Tokio addressed a letter to the Niadzukarisho on the 7th. inst., offering to mediate if the company will concede two points in the dispute pending between both parties; that is, payment before delivery at the establishment, and inspection of goods in its godowns. By his arbitration he confidently hopes to effect a compromise. It is not known what answer the Niadzukarisho has given. It is quite certain however, that they will not give up the first point as that was the main object of the company's formation. There will probably be no difficulty in yielding to the second.

THE *Choya Shinbun* says:—Messrs. Nakamura, Kimura, Terada, and about sixty others held a meeting at the Machi Gaisho on the 7th. inst., when a resolution was carried that, as the present difficulty in the silk trade is seriously damaging other branches of commerce a mediation should be offered between both parties. Steps will be taken to carry this into effect.

THE *Hochi Shinbun* states that His Imperial Majesty the Mikado left Utsunomiya at 7 a.m. yesterday (9th. inst.).

MR. UTSUKI, editor of the *Choya Shinbun* has been sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment for violating Article 13 of the press regulations, by publishing a note headed "*Aged and young and new and old should be interchanged*," meaning that the present form of government should be repealed.

THE dread alarm of fire was echoed through the settlement about half past ten this morning (11th. instant), and was quickly taken up by the bells at the various police stations. People were not long in discovering that the scene of the conflagration was the Ishikawa foundry on the Swamp and that place soon became a rendezvous for "all the world and his wife." Several fire engines were speedily on the spot and promptly set to work; but the flames raged so fiercely that they were not got under until two large buildings were totally destroyed. The fire brigade and the volunteer fire steam engine company lost no time in turning out and rendered most essential service; and the same may be said of the sailors of the English and American men-of-war, who were most active and energetic in their endeavours to prevent further spread of the "devouring element." The houses surrounding the foundry are occupied by Japanese and are built entirely of wood. Great fears were entertained lest they also might take fire and their tenants very speedily carried their *lures* and *penates* to a place of safety. Thanks however, to timely precaution they all escaped with impunity so far as the flames were concerned, but it is greatly to be feared that the "light fingered tribe" who "most do congregate" amidst such scenes did not fail to help themselves to the miscellaneous useful and ornamental wares so temptingly displayed before them.

The damage sustained must be very great. We have not heard whether any insurance company will be the poorer for the catastrophe.

A PUBLIC meeting was held at the Machi Gaisho last night (10th. instant), when Mr. Fukuchi, chief manager and editor of

the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun*, delivered an address connected with the present silk trade difficulty between native and foreign merchants. The audience was greater than at the last meeting on the 6th. instant, but less excitement was shown than was the case on the latter occasion. The chief object of the speaker was to persuade those concerned in this affair to pursue a line of policy dictated by reason. An abstract of his address is given here. He said:—

"I do not remember any such great dispute between native and foreign merchants as the silk question which arose upon the establishment of the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho. This establishment was brought into existence by necessity, or by the circumstances in which Japanese traders have been for a long time placed, and not for the furtherance of any selfish purpose. Of course, I have never wished to see such a combination as this establishment. Trade should be freely carried on by all without the least restriction. This is quite true; but sometimes circumstances urgently force traders to act otherwise. In this way the Niadzukarisho was established and its object is to recover those commercial rights of our traders of which they have been deprived. As it is now formed we are not called upon to criticise its rules, but to try to do the best we can for it. However, I see that foreigners are not the authors of the existing customs in the silk trade; on the contrary, you the silk dealers yourselves are the authors; you have been used to take your goods into foreigners' godowns before settlement is made; you yourselves have given currency to the absurd custom in question. If you had transacted your business properly in the beginning, there would have been no need for the formation of the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho. Now, in opposition to past practice, you combine to set the matter right; and I strongly advise you to reform that practice. In this you will succeed; because to deliver goods into foreign godowns without any assurance of settlement is not a proper mode of carrying on business. On this point I earnestly advise you to use your best exertions; and your combination for this purpose promises to succeed.

Still, you must not pursue your objects as prejudice dictates, but be impartial in action. As far as I know, the objections of foreigners to your regulations are not altogether unreasonable; they say that such an important change in the mode of transacting business should have been consulted upon before being carried into execution; the place of the establishment is too far removed from the foreign settlement, the room for inspection is dark, and the arrangements are imperfect. All these objections are reasonable. Moreover, foreigners are your customers, etc., so you must try to afford all possible facilities in business for both will be benefited thereby. Therefore all those points should be given up, and a compromise made as soon as possible; but with regard to delivering your goods into foreigners' godowns before settlement, you must be resolute in refusing demands, and if you fail in this point, your condition will be much worse than before the Niadzukarisho was formed.

Finally you should not act as though you were revenging yourselves for a long course of ill-treatment; but act rather as men resolved upon reforming an improper mode of business. With such advice I conclude."

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* has the following item:—Canton in China stands next in importance to Yokohama as regards the silk trade, more than 20,000 bales being annually export-

ed from that place. It was formerly the custom amongst silk merchants there to settle business in the shops, but the Chinese were so deceitful and so unjust in weighing goods that the Europeans, smart as they are, were no match for the cunning Celestials and were therefore subjected to an annual heavy loss.

To put a stop to this abuse, and to equalise commercial rights the Europeans consulted together and established a clearing house during last year for negotiations in silk. It was decreed by them that no silk should be purchased except through the medium of the house. The Chinese objected strongly and great trouble ensued; but through the mediation of some of the leading European merchants and foreign consuls the difficulty was settled and Chinese merchants consented to the inspection and weighing of silk and transaction of business at the clearing house.

What difference is there between the aforesaid clearing house and our Niadzukarisho? In Canton foreigners established the former because they considered it necessary, and yet in Yokohama they oppose the opening of the latter on the ground that it is improper. Is it not strange that they should hold such different opinions concerning two similar institutions?

We hear that Mr. Hewlett the British consul who made great efforts in support of the clearing house in Canton is now residing in Yokohama. If so, foreign merchants, who doubt the necessity of the Niadzukarisho can consult him when they will receive a much more lucid explanation than we can give.

A MATCH was held on Saturday (8th. inst.) by the Yokohama Rifle Association for a prize presented by Mr. Guissani, the conditions being 10 shots and 500 yards with no trial and no signalling of hits from the butts. Under these difficult circumstances the leading scores were very good.

#### SCORES.

L. Cameron	...	39	with 5 bull's eye.
Favre Brandt	...	39	" 4 "
Beretta	...	37	" 4 "
Dare	...	32	" 1 "
Stiebel	...	25	" 1 "
Bland	...	24	" 2 "
Gilbert	...	21	

THE following important Imperial edict was promulgated on Wednesday:—

I, succeeding to the great dynasty of my ancestors, a dynasty which has lasted for upwards of two thousand and five hundred years, have determined to establish order out of the confusion which has existed since the middle ages, to assume the sole reins of power and, at an early date, to establish a constitutional form of government. For this reason the senate was established in the 8th. year of Meiji (1875) and local assemblies were opened in the 11th. year of Meiji (1878).

These measures were no more than the gradual formation of a representative system, step by step, in consecutive order. Rely all men on my intentions!

I think that the system of constitutional government differs in each country according to existing conditions. It is an extraordinary task to establish a proper system of government, a task that must not be rashly carried out.

My predecessors are looking down on me from above and I am responsible for the increase of their glory, the extension of their great work, and the adoption of measures for completing the task of modifying ancient and modern systems. Therefore in the 23rd. year of Meiji I intend to summon

deputies of the people with a view to the establishment of a representative assembly, which will be the fulfilment of an intention entertained from the beginning.

Now therefore, I order officials of the court to draw up a plan of a representative system the constitution and power of which I myself will settle, and will promulgate when the time arrives.

I think the people are inclined to advance too fast and are too eager to cause sedition by reckless speech, by which they will fall into serious error in the end. Against this, my subjects, both in and out of office shall be warned by instruction. Should they then still persist in their attempts to disturb the peace of the country they shall be punished as the law directs. This is specially declared and addressed to you all.

By order of H. I. M. the Mikado.

SANJO SANETOSHI,

*Daijii Daijin.*

12th. October, 1881.

It has been said that the fire drives out another, but here in Yokohama the reverse is the case for no sooner does one conflagration take place than another follows close on its heels. In our issue of the 11th. inst. we had to record an outbreak of fire on the Swamp which caused no small amount of damage. Last night, about 11.45 we were aroused from our peaceful slumbers by the dread sound of the fire bell and the rush of many people hastening towards the Bluff. We forsook the "downy," soon joined the eager throng, and were not long in finding out that one of the out houses of the General Hospital had taken fire and was enveloped in flames. Mr. Hecht's fire engines were speedily on the spot and quickly set to work. Thanks to the fortunate circumstance of there being scarcely a breath of air, as well as to the energy displayed by the firemen the flames were got under and extinguished before the main building was touched. The damage sustained is comparatively small, but the consequences might have been very serious. There were of course the usual crowd of tag rag and bobtail present on the scene, who were far more hindrance than help; in fact many of them seemed to be much more intent on plunder than on salvage. The building which was destroyed, we are informed, was the steward's kitchen.

The mining operations at the new collieries of Haipong, a place about 120 miles from Tientsin, are progressing rapidly. The specimens of coal brought up from the larger seams have been examined and found almost equal in hardness and heat-giving properties to English coal; and much superior to Takashima. The chief engineer is confident that by next autumn the collieries will yield with ease 800 to 1,000 tons daily. The Vladivostok mine, under the superintendence of Mr. Morris, will be opened in the spring, and a large output is calculated on.

There are quantities of coal in Japan, but the commercial policy of the government prevents its realisation; and splendid chances are lost in consequence.

In another column will be found a report of the opening of a new English school for Japanese boys. The address of the Rev. Dr. Verbeek, which we were reluctantly compelled to condense, is deserving of especial attention from all who are interested in the cause of popular education. The learned Doctor fully admits the truth of the maxim

propounded by the Roman sage, which being freely translated runs:—"To have learnt the liberal arts faithfully softens men's manners and suffers them not to be brutes," but he thinks there is something more required before (figuratively speaking) the cornerstone of the "spiritual temple" can be raised. The point he sought to establish was that moral education does not consist in mere culture of the intellect, but also includes the discipline of the heart. The subject is of primary importance in Japan at the present time when an idea widely obtains that *knowledge is virtue* and that to increase intellectual attainments is to increase in moral excellence. The Doctor's illustrations of the distinctions to be made in these respects were telling, and on that account we regret our inability to reproduce his masterly address *in extenso*.

Dr. Verbeek is at present connected with the American Reformed Church Mission at Tokio. For many years he was a professor in the Imperial University in that city where he received the Emperor's decoration of the Order of Merit for the eminent services he rendered to the cause of education in Japan.

SEVERAL rumours prevail about the silk trade in Yokohama; yesterday we heard that Messrs. Nakamura Sobei and Kimura Buyemon intend to offer their mediation towards an amicable settlement of the difficulty, on condition that foreigners should inspect silk at the shops of wholesale dealers.

As we previously stated, foreigners despatched *banto* to several districts to buy silk, but producers are said to refuse to sell it to them without first asking the company if they may do so.

THE day before yesterday (4th. inst.), 28 bales of Hachoji silk were taken to No. 177 in the name of its *banto* Higuchi Chinsuke, and 24 bales to No. 90 B. in the name of Toguohi Gensuke. Perhaps these bales were purchased in producing districts some time ago.

ON the night before last (5th. instant), the members of the Niadzukarisho held a meeting at its establishment and decided that no advances should be made on goods purchased by *banto* and despatched to foreigners. They invited owners of silk to a meeting to be held at the Imamuraro at Otamachi for the purpose of securing for the company the cooperation of the latter. Many of them ardently applaud the scheme and seem determined to assist it.

WE hear that the Koishin grape crop has failed this season. At all events, from all sides, news reaches us that nobody has had any grapes this year as usual.

The influence of the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho has had a blighting effect upon *kinsatsu*; has it blighted the grape crop also?

WE extract the following from a private letter dated Niigata 1st. inst.:—

Yesterday (30th. Sept.) was a fine, pleasant day; but suddenly at 1 p.m. the western sky became overcast, and at 1.30 there came a gale, accompanied by torrents of rain and snow, which lasted half an hour. At 2 p.m. the wind calmed, rain and snow ceased and the pleasant weather returned. Snow in September (August old style) has not been known for many years in this country.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* says that a fire broke out at Yushima Tenjincho Nichome, Hongo-ku, Tokio, at 2.30 a.m. yesterday (4th. inst.), when thirty-six houses were burnt down and one life lost.

A PARAGRAPH in *L'Echo du Japon* of 5th. instant to the effect that the Boyeki Shokwai had received a telegram from New York dated 1st. instant giving the following quotations, for silk, led us to inquire if the version given by our contemporary was correct. The telegram is as follows:—

Sanseisha ... .. (\$5.45) \$710  
Kakeda No. 1 ... .. ( 5.35) 695

Are we right in assuming that \$5.45 per pound in New York is supposed to be equivalent to \$710 per picul here; or that such an impression is intended to be conveyed in the telegram? If so, the sooner the error is corrected the better. The prices given of \$710 and \$695 respectively, are gross, and to arrive at the correct valuation here all charges from purchase to sale should be deducted. Packing, duty, freight and commission here, and the sellers charges in New York aggregate about 16 per cent., which must be deducted from the selling price. When this is done, the telegram will read.

Sanseisha.....(\$5.45) equal \$596.40 } in Yokohama.  
Kakeda No. 1 5.35 " 588.80 }

The latest quotation for good Kakeda here was \$650 to \$670; or say \$75 higher than the best realised in New York. This is interesting to direct shippers.

TELEGRAPHIC communication with Europe and America, via the Siberian route, was re-established at 5 p.m. (6th. inst.) The Saigon-Singapore submarine cable also is now in working order.

TELEGRAMS for Europe and America can now be transmitted, via Hongkong route, although they are still liable to slight delay. The Siberian route is still interrupted.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* publishes the following, intended to form a sort of manifesto, issued by some friends of the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho in support of the objects of that association, and to frighten foreign merchants with the threatened alternative of their contumacy—direct export. The meeting at which this agreement was formulated, was held at the Imamuraro, Otamachi, on the 5th. instant.

"A difficulty has arisen between the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho and foreign merchants. The company, on its part, never intended to cause foreigners any trouble whatever, necessity compelling them to associate for the protection of their own interests. From the commencement the association adopted and has continued a pacific policy in the hope of putting an end to the ill-feeling; but, under various pretexts, foreigners have opposed this institution, urging that it is unsafe to transact business under its rules, and they refused peremptorily and decidedly to have any dealings with it whatsoever. Nor is this all. They have circulated a rude and insolent circular attacking our merchants; and they daily become more and more violent in their wrath against this firmly established association. The time has therefore arrived when our merchants are to decide upon the restoration or deprivation of their commercial rights. As a trial they have established this association with the intention of recovering, by combined exertion, those rights they have been so long deprived of.

"To encourage these exertions for our benefit we, the merchants of several districts, meet here to-day, and resolve that if foreigners with threats refuse to transact business [through the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho] there is no course left for us to pursue than direct exportation. We firmly believe it is our duty, that necessity compels us, to make every effort to restore our commercial right. We therefore request all present to testify their combination with this association."

The *Nichi Nichi* gives no further information; and we are left in the dark in regard to the number of persons who bound themselves to the resolution.

WHAT do Japanese mean by all this unnecessary declamation about their commercial rights of which they have been deprived, and upon the restoration of which their existence seems to depend?

There are no commercial rights enjoyed by foreigners that Japanese do not equally possess; and any assertion to the contrary requires, not merely evidence to support it, but some explanation to render it intelligible. For years past the members of the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho have been amicably transacting business with foreigners. Well known silk dealers like Messrs Hara Zenzaburo, Mogi Sobei, Wakao, and others, have, up to the very moment of the establishment of this guild, been on the most friendly terms with foreign merchants; and have, hundreds of times, expressed themselves as perfectly satisfied with foreign business and the straightforward way in which it has been conducted. Suddenly, these persons turn round, form a close combination to render the purchase of silk by foreigners a dangerous operation, and then justify themselves to their own people by falsely declaring that the abuses committed by foreigners in the silk trade compelled the formation of this association in sheer self-defence.

Whoever instructed the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* to put forward the series of charges embodied in its article of the 5th instant, is guilty of endeavouring to support a bad action by wanton, malicious, and injurious falsehoods which had only to be made known to be at once denounced, and their glaring mendacity brought to every one's notice.

The cruel part of the proceeding is the treachery of the principal movers in the concern. Until the formation of the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho was publicly announced, all silk dealers denied connection with it. Many of these men were on most intimate terms with those foreigners whom they now accuse of abuses which would be intolerable in any community; and which, it is needless to say, never existed here.

One of the newest tricks of the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho is to advise native merchants that foreigners have given in to all the rules of the association; and that a few days have been allowed to cover the ignominy of their retreat. This is an error like the rest.

His Excellency Iwakura and suite returned to Tokio yesterday (6th. instant).

We learn with pleasure that a meeting of silk merchants unconnected with the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho was held on Wednesday (5th. instant) to take into consideration the position in which the action of the guild places the trade. Of the proceedings we have no detailed information; but understand a very strong opinion

was expressed that the intervention of the Yokohama *saitori* in every branch of foreign trade was highly objectionable and detrimental to the interests of native merchants, while its tendency was to limit trade and effectually prevent its extension.

Foreigners desire no better judgment on the matter at issue than the opinion of independent native merchants. If the latter should decide that for all purposes of trade twenty six of their number shall act as brokers for the foreign settlement of Yokohama, and that no business whatever shall be transacted except through their medium, foreign merchants must bow to their decision; and the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho, triumphant, will have succeeded in the establishment of a guild enjoying an absolute monopoly of trade; an institution which H. E. Okuma in his recent "General View of Financial Policy," declared was "opposed to the principles of political economy." In such an event foreigners will form an opinion unfavourable to future commercial intercourse; and will have to take measures for their own protection in the present which must, in the ordinary course of things, be prejudicial to the silk trade. If, on the other hand, the monopoly enjoyed by the twenty-six is disapproved, and all merchants should be declared competent to deal directly with the foreign settlements, a vast increase of business will be the result, not in silk alone but in all other products Japanese are prepared to sell.

THE attempt to reverse the order of trade attempted here by the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho, is being watched with great eagerness and exultation by native merchants in Kobe who have long held a similar position with regard to tea that the twenty-six merchants here have done with regard to silk especially and all trade generally.

The prevailing notion in Kobe is that foreigners cannot act in concert; that surrender is inevitable, and that the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho will have done invaluable service to the cause of the monopolists. The moment the triumph of the native combination is announced, a similar code of "regulations" is to be issued here and in Kobe simultaneously, to correct foreign abuses of the tea trade. That such measures are contemplated there can be no doubt; and it becomes evident that all foreign merchants are personally affected by the issue of the struggle with the Niadzukarisho.

SOME of the Japanese papers allude to the weakness of the foreign defensive combination, apparently forgetting that the rules of the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho are of a nature to practically prohibit the purchase of silk unless at considerable risk to the buyer. However anxious foreigners may be to purchase silk they are compelled to refrain because of the risks they must incur in so doing; and for this reason alone their resolution not to buy from the monopolists is not likely to be shaken or varied.

Those native journals who regard foreign opposition to the regulations Japanese monopolists desire to enforce (for their own benefit and not for the benefit of the trade), as purely vexatious and untenable, should look the position in the face. Shortly stated, the position is this. The entire question of commercial intercourse between Japanese and foreigners, defined by treaties between their respective governments to be unrestricted, is now under

consideration. Free commercial intercourse has never been permitted; and no doubt whatever exists that the commerce of Japan is suffering severely from the influences of the twenty-six brokers who claim the sole right of business relations with foreigners. Whether those twenty-six men can establish their claim is a question for all other Japanese merchants illegally deprived of their right of free dealing with importers and exporters, to decide. Until that decision has been given foreigners will stand firm for the following cogent reasons:

1.—They are buyers, merely postponing their purchases, confronting sellers wanting money, eager to realise, yet confident they can compel the foreigner to submit to monstrous terms of purchase.

2.—The question is a test one. If foreigners submit they must submit to all other equally oppressive conditions in all other branches of trade.

3.—Firmness on the part of foreigners means a better understanding with the people, and a vastly greater trade to the benefit of all concerned. Weakness means that the whole foreign commerce of this empire shall be confined for ever to the few monopolists who, not being merchants, are working it for their personal benefit as brokers; and, while levying "black mail" upon their countrymen's property, are limiting the trade of the nation to their own management.

These considerations have been duly weighed, and before entering upon a step so unusual and so distasteful as a trade combination, foreigners had arranged their plan of action, which is to ascertain, once for all, if the treaties of commerce have any meaning, and if so how it comes to pass that the commerce of thirty-five millions of people is rigidly confined to, and enjoyed by, the few monopolists in the open ports, who have unquestionably prevented its extension hitherto and are resolved to do the same in the future.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* has the following item:—The silk business at Yokohama was active on the 6th. inst. in consequence of the receipt of a telegram from abroad to the effect that prices had a tendency to rise. Foreign merchants were very willing to buy silk but were prevented from doing so by the resolution they have agreed to. They accordingly requested native merchants to purchase for them and the best quality of Shimonida Tomioka, &c., fetched \$615 to \$630. Brisk transactions also took place in Mayebashi and Hachioji. The Niadzukarisho are therefore jubilant at the certainty of success. (Are they indeed Mr. *Nichi Nichi*? They had better not reckon their chickens before they are hatched. You also had better be a trifle less credulous. Don't take everything for granted that the monopolists tell you.—Ed. J. G.) On the evening of the same day, two carriages loaded with 25 bales of silk passed by the establishment. Under the impression that these goods might have been secretly purchased by the cunning foreigners, the Aratamesho despatched a man to stop them, but the drivers took no notice and deposited the silk at a certain house. An investigation is being made into the circumstance.

A telegram has been received from the Ono Kinroku Yamanashi-ken, stating that silk dealers in that province have resolved to transact no business whatever apart from the Niadzukarisho.



THE same paper says:—It is said that the members of the cabinet and other high officials have recently held secret meetings in various places and have split up into several cliques. One party desires the expulsion of a certain member from the cabinet and the dismissal of all his friends and supporters from their respective offices, as well as the appointment of a new member of the cabinet in order that the present form of government may be continued. Another party intends to advise H. I. M. the Mikado, as soon as he returns to Tokio, to stop the Kaitakushi job and to resign their posts if their advice is refused. A third and fourth party advocate the establishment of a representative assembly but refrain from expressing themselves concerning the Kaitakushi business.

We have been favoured with the following particulars relative to the course of instruction to be pursued in the recently established Sen Chai Gakko. If it be properly carried out, the new school will not fail to be an acquisition to many. Professor Wyckoff, under whose superintendence the school will be conducted, has already proved himself to be an expert in teaching and, to judge from his printed testimonials, he has elsewhere gathered together a goodly crop of laurels. May success attend him in his efforts at teaching "the (Japanese) young idea how to shoot :"—

"The design of this school is to give a thorough training in the principal English and Japanese studies. It will have two courses of study, junior and senior, each extending over a period of three years. Pupils entering the junior department will be required to have a slight knowledge of English, and will be taught reading, dictation, conversation, translation, composition, arithmetic, grammar, geography, (political and physical), algebra and elementary physics in English and Chinese, a full equivalent to what is taught in Japanese schools of the same grade. In the senior department, general history, higher mathematics, chemistry, rhetoric, logic, mental and moral philosophy, political economy, natural history and Chinese will be taught. Bible studies will form a part of both courses. An elementary class will be formed for the benefit of those who know no English, and are therefore not prepared to enter the junior department."

MR. MASUDA, manager of the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha, addressing the members of the Tokio Chamber of Commerce in reference to the silk difficulty, is reported to have said:—"It seemed to him something utterly anomalous that the action of five and thirty foreign merchants should be capable of blocking the whole silk trade of Japan." The anomaly, Mr. Masuda, is not the stoppage of the silk trade consequent upon the justifiable resolution of thirty-five foreign merchants not to risk buying under the rules of the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho, but that twenty-six Japanese brokers should have the power to blockade Yokohama and control not merely the silk but the whole trade of the empire of Japan. That such an anomaly should be permitted to exist is incomprehensible.

THE noble army of police was largely represented at the fire yesterday; but for all the help they afforded they might as well have stayed away. With the exception of playing tunes with their "shillaleghs" on the heads of sundry wretched little street Arabs, whose enquiring turn of mind led them to hurry too

quickly over one of the bridges across the canal, they did nothing whatever, and only made themselves conspicuous by their awkwardness, insolence, and unhappy knack of being in everybody's way.

AN association consisting of forty-five silk dealers in Yamanashi-ken and the Fukushima-ken Sanshi Kwanko Kwaisha have published a circular announcing that they have determined to assist the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho by abstaining from selling silk to foreigners directly, or to any Japanese who may act for foreigners.

HIS Imperial Majesty the Mikado stopped at Senji on his way to Tokio yesterday morning, and was received by Her Majesty the Empress, Princes, Daijin, Sangi, and ministers of government departments: after dinner, His Majesty, accompanied by the Imperial party, left there and returned to the Imperial palace in Tokio at 2 35 p.m.

THE *Akebono Shinbun* says:—Prince Higashi Fushimi, who entertains an objection to the Kaitakushi affair left Tokio to meet His Imperial Majesty the Mikado on the road to the capital for the purpose of laying before him his opinion in connection with the transaction. One of the Sangi, guessing his intention, followed after him, overtook him and advised him not to go on, but all in vain, the prince drove on his carriage in haste and the Sangi returned.

THE *Hochi Shinbun* has the following item:—Sometime ago we referred to a rumour that Mr. Soyeshima laid a memorial before His Imperial Majesty the Mikado during his tour, containing his opinion as to the Kaitakushi transaction. We are now informed that Mr. Soyeshima not only seriously advertised on the impropriety of the transaction in his memorial, but in denouncing the scheme went so far as to suggest that certain Sangi should be discharged from their offices. The contents of the memorial having been early conveyed to the Sangi in the capital, a serious disturbance is said to have occurred amongst them in consequence. But now the Mikado has returned, the question of the Kaitakushi will be settled in some way or another, and the trouble will therefore soon come to an end.

A SPECIAL meeting was held at the Chamber of Commerce in Tokio on the night of the 10th. instant. Mr. Shibusawa took the chair and delivered a brief address on the present great difficulty between the Niadzukarisho and foreign merchants. He submitted communications which had passed between the chamber and the establishment in connection with the difficulty and asked the opinion of the members on the subject. They all agreed to the following proposition:—

That the subject in question is of the utmost importance to Japanese merchants, and as this is a good opportunity for restoring our commercial rights, the chamber must not be idle but make proper exertions, and therefore it should mediate between both parties with a view to the reform of bad customs on the part of foreigners towards the Japanese, and also to give foreigners satisfaction with regard to the site of the establishment, the inspection room, and some other alleged inconveniences; and the chamber should also furnish chambers of commerce and silk rearing establishments in different parts of the country with particulars of the present silk question, and adopt measures for preventing any

transactions being made contrary to the rules of the establishment.

Messrs. Masuda, Okura, Matsuo, Niwa and Hara were appointed a special committee for carrying this into effect.

THE report of the central board of health on the number of persons attacked by cholera during 25 days from September 8th. to October 2nd., shows the following results:—

New patients .. .. .	1,195.
Patients died since last report	445.
Average number of patients daily attacked	
In Osaka .. .. .	47.
„ Fukuoka-ken .. .. .	7.67
„ Kumamoto-ken .. .. .	31.

From September 18th. to October 5th. there were 321 patients of whom 150 died in Nagasaki-ken. The epidemic has broken out at Okayama-ku, in Okayama-ken and tends to spread.

THE *Choya Shinbun* says that cholera is raging fiercely in Kioto. On the 4th. inst. Mr. Yamaguchi, a physician who treated the late princess Katsurano-miya, his wife, two children and one servant were attacked by cholera and all died in one day.

HIS Imperial Majesty the Mikado has returned from his northern tour and has commenced business in real earnest. Yesterday we published the translation of a decree notifying his intention of establishing a legislative assembly. This is an announcement which will be received with gladness by a large section of his subjects and one which, if properly carried into effect, will secure an immense amount of good to the country.

It may be, and no doubt is, gross presumption for such humble individuals as ourselves to dictate to the sovereign ruler of the "Morning Land," but to our thinking, nine years is rather a long notice to give of the adoption of a necessary measure of reform for which the people have so long begged and prayed in vain. There can be no question that His Majesty is thoroughly sincere in his intentions and that he earnestly desires to place the government of his dominions on a firm basis. It is therefore all the more to be regretted that he has thought fit to postpone the step he intends taking for so long a period. It is to be hoped that he will reconsider his decision on the principle of *bis dat qui cito dat*.

THE Kaitakushi swindle has collapsed. His Majesty the Mikado has proved amenable to the voice of public opinion and has withdrawn his sanction from the infamous "arrangement." We published the notification in our morning supplement and it again appears in the present issue. It was kept out of last night's paper by an oversight of the translator—a circumstance which we much regret.

THE *Choya Shinbun* says:—H. E. Okuma either on account of his opposition to the Kaitakushi affair, or from having forwarded a memorial for the establishment of a representative assembly, has for some time been so bitterly hated by the rest of the sangi that they would hold no conversation with him when he attended the cabinet after his return from the north. On the 12th. instant, he tendered his resignation to the prime minister and returned to his house. On the evening of the same day H. E. Yamada informed him that his resignation had been accepted.

ALTHOUGH, says the same paper, the Kaitakushi affair has been cancelled H. E. Kuroda

still holds his appointment, whilst H. E. Okuma, whose petitions against the job were entertained has resigned. How strange this is! [Not particularly so Mr. Choya. People do sometimes suffer for "conscience" sake even when they are in the right. It is not very pleasant being "sent to Coventry" by one's colleagues and friends and perhaps Mr. Okuma was rather sensitive on the point. Such a thin skinned nature scarcely becomes a "Japanese Gladstone" however.—Ed. J. G.]

THE following Notification was issued on the 12th. inst. by the Privy Council:—

TO THE COLONIZATION COMMISSION:

You are hereby informed, that the permission lately accorded, in reply to your request for the sale of the industrial undertakings connected with your Department, is, upon further consideration, withdrawn.

(Signed). SANJO SANETOMI,  
First Minister of State.

12th. day, 10th. month, 14th year of Meiji,  
(October 12th., 1881).

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* has the following items:—H. E. Kuroda is said to have been confined to his house by indisposition since the 11th. instant. It is also reported that he attended the cabinet on the 13th., but this rumour is not reliable.

It is reported that the Kaitakushi is to be abolished and a ken to be established in its stead.

THE *Hochi Shinbun* hears that H. E. Okuma suggested in the memorial which he sent to the government, that representatives of the people should be summoned next year in order to open the first national assembly in 1883.

THE same paper announces that Mr. Yano, secretary of the Daijokwan and chief of the statistical bureau, Messrs. Ushiba, Jungai, and Osaki have all resigned their offices; it is also reported that some members of the Genro-in have followed their example.

THE *Mai Nichi Shinbun* publishes a rumour to the effect that the cabinet have hired five spies to watch the political movements of the people.

THE *Akebono Shinbun* announces that whilst only two guards have hitherto escorted each of the daijin and sangi, their number since yesterday has been increased to ten.

THE same paper says:—On the day before yesterday, a few members of the Tokio Chamber of Commerce went to Yokohama for the purpose of mediating between native and foreign merchants with respect to the silk question, but both parties firmly persisted in their claims. As there was no hope of succeeding in their object of arbitration the members of the chamber did not venture to offer their services. Whilst foreign merchants are so obstinate orders for silk are continually coming in from abroad, so that the Mitsui Bussan Kwaisha, Boyeki Shokwai, have determined to engage in direct exportation. About 2,000 bales will shortly be exported.

ACCORDING to the *Mai Nichi Shinbun*, sixteen silk producing companies in Mayebashi, viz. Kiseisha, Dokwasha, Taieisha, Kita, Seisensha, Junkesha, Seiyekisha, Shijunsha, Nisseisha, Moirensa, Kiyoisha, Kobuncha, Shikishima-sha, Awabarasha, Mousonoisha, Shoriusha, and

Kosuisha, sent a memorandum to the Niadzukarisha announcing their resolution not to effect any transactions except in accordance with the rules of the establishment, even though they may sustain great loss in consequence thereof.

MANY of our readers will learn with deep regret that Monsignore Ridel, Bishop of Korea, whose captivity and sufferings in that country have been recounted often, lies at the point of death. The Bishop, who is but little more than fifty years of age, passed through here a few days ago, and on his arrival at Nagasaki was in his usual health, but a sudden stroke of apoplexy threatens to bring to a sudden termination the earnest labours and life long devotion of a noble denying servant of the Church of Rome.

ON Wednesday the 12th. instant, the punctuality which generally characterises the running of the trains upon the Tokio-Yokohama Railway was interrupted to a degree exceeding any of the few rare occasions upon which such irregularity has occurred. The trains during the afternoon gradually lost time from Yokohama, and the last which should have left at 10.40 p.m., did not leave until about 12.30 a.m. on Thursday morning. The occasion was the annual festival at Ikegami, near Omori, which was invested with greater attraction than usual, from the fact of its being this year a centenary, as well as an annual commemoration; and the railway conveyed on that day, between all stations, the unprecedented number of upwards of 40,000 passengers, fortunately without any mishap, although the resources of the railway were taxed to the utmost.

THE *Hochi Shinbun* says that according to a recent official return, the total area of seas, lakes and rivers of the country suitable for fishery is about 7,372 square *cho* and when compared with the total area of our arable land, that is, 4,566,215 square *cho*, it exceeds the latter by 2,828,467. By an estimate made by a European about 99,450,002,000 tons of fish could be annually obtained from this area if the resources be properly developed; but at present our fisheries only realize 150,000,000 yen annually. As they are in so poor a state, it is said, that the government intends to establish a fishery society next year for the promotion of that industry throughout the country.

FROM the same paper, it seems that Prince Arisugawa and Sangi, Yamagata were strongly opposed to the resignation of Mr. Okuma who has so faithfully discharged his duty for 14 years; but the rest of the Sangi insisted on it, and His Majesty was therefore reluctantly compelled to accept it.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* hears a rumor to the effect that Sangi Ogi has sent in his resignation to the government, and that Mr. Matsugata will be appointed in his stead.

THE same paper says that silk companies in the provinces of Mina and Hida have sent a notice to the Niadzukarisha announcing that they have combined to assist that establishment.

THE *Akebono Shinbun* says:—His Imperial Majesty the Mikado assembled the daijin, sangi and ministers of all the government departments, on the 13th. instant, and disclosed the future policy of His Majesty's government

towards the people. He said the work of the government since the restoration, is only now at half way and that officials should understand the Imperial intention and endeavour to bring all affairs into good order so as to increase the people's benefit.

SOME high officials called on Mr. Okuma, late Sangi, and said that they did not understand why his resignation was accepted at a time when the reformation of the government was promulgated, and the Kaitakushi affair countermanded as he had recommended. Mr. Okuma replied that he had lived in official life since the restoration and had never been acquainted with the condition of the people but now, being released from the cares of state, he wished to observe their real requirements and also to recruit his health, which had been much injured by his arduous labours for the Imperial government.

THE *Mai Nichi Shinbun* has the following items:—It is rumoured that the cabinet has decided on modifying its present organization, although it is not unanimous on the subject: one party proposes to limit the number of members to three and another to extend it to five; the matter is therefore still unsettled.

THE *Choya Shinbun* has the following items:—The German consul is said to have received an audience with His Majesty the Mikado as well as an invitation to an Imperial banquet.

It is said, H. E. Kuroda has sent in his resignation to the government. This is only a rumour, but it is not unlikely to be true.

THE *Kenshu Maru*, a sailing vessel of the Fuhansen Kwaisha left Sidney on the 24th. August last with a cargo of coals for the Mitsui Bussan Kwaisha and arrived at Yokohama the day before yesterday (15th inst.)

THE *Choya Shinbun* asks:—What is the reason why no sangi attended the cabinet meeting a few days ago? H. E. Sanjo was the only one present.

It is said that one of the most influential members of the cabinet has become convinced of the necessity of a representative assembly which has been so urgently demanded by the people. He told a friend of his that he himself would have no difficulty in effecting its establishment without bloodshed. The simple minded *Mai Nichi* adds, "if this rumour be true it is a very joyful thing."

THE *Hochi Shinbun* publishes the following statistics of births, deaths, &c. in Tokio for the month of June last:—

Births (males).....	742
„ (females).....	705 1,447
Deaths (males).....	903
„ (females).....	766 1,669
Marriages.....	593
Abortions.....	118
Divorces.....	390

THE *Choya Shinbun* has received information from Yokohama to the effect that the foreign merchants of that settlement have decided on applying to the government for permission to reside in the interior of the country for the purpose of establishing banks in producing districts, and of affording assistance to transactions in silk. This the latest joke played off on the too susceptible *Choya*.

THE *Chingai Bukka Shinpo* says:—"We have hitherto entertained some anxiety lest scarcity of funds might prevent the Niasukarisho from persisting in its present undertaking because victory entirely depends upon capital. We are now informed that the Niasukarisho furnishes 2,000,000 yen, wholesale dealers 1,500,000 yen the 15th national bank 1,500,000 yen, and all other banks 2,000,000 yen. Moreover the quantity of silk this season is small as compared with other years, and about one-third of the whole crop is already exported so that there is no lack of money wherewith to carry on the game.

In whatever light it may be regarded, opium traffic in China is a matter of more than passing interest to most residents in the east as well as to many at home. It is a subjects on which Exeter-Hallites have frequently waxed eloquent, on which they have expended a vast amount of their conventional "goody goody" and sanctimonious twaddle, and at which they have often raised their hands in real or pretended pious horror and indignation.

We have received a pamphlet from the Inspector General of the Chinese Imperial Customs dealing with the opium question which we have read with much interest. The book actually bristles with figures and statistics from end to end. With these we need not trouble our readers as the substance of Mr. Hart's enquiry is easily understood without them. The question to which he was anxious to obtain an answer was:—*Opium in China: how many smokers does the foreign drug supply?* To get at this information he sent a circular containing a set of questions to the Commissioners of Customs at a score of ports along the coast and on the Yangtze. The gist of their replies seems to be as follows:—

The annual importation of foreign opium into China may be said to amount to 100,000 chests or, allowing 100 catties to each chest, 10,000,000 catties (the Chinese catty, as most of our readers are probably aware is equal to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lb. avoirdupois). The process of preparation or boiling down entail a loss of about 80 per cent. in weight; so that only about 7,000,000 catties of the prepared drug reaches the retailers' hands. The catty is divided into 16 *liang* (ounces), and the *liang* into tenths called *mace*; 7,000,000 catties are therefore 1,120,000,000 *mace* of prepared opium for smokers.

Before reaching the consumers, opium pays the Chinese government import duty and *likin* taxes amounting to, say, 100 *taels* and is then sold at, say 800 *taels* of Chinese *sycee* or silver per 100 catties: thus the total quantity imported and retailed may be said to be paid for with 56,000,000 *taels* or £16,800,000 and one *mace* of prepared opium is consequently worth about  $1\frac{1}{4}$ d. (English.)

Divide the total weight by 365 and it will be found that 3,068,493 *mace* are smoked daily at a cost of £46,027. Average smokers are said to consume 3 *mace* of prepared opium and spend about  $10\frac{1}{2}$ d. daily. This quantity is the same as  $\frac{1}{16}$ ths. of an ounce avoirdupois, and suffices for from 30 to 40 pipes, i.e. whiffs, "draws," or inhalations. If we divide the total number of *mace* consumed daily by the total quantity each average smoker consumes daily, we find that there are in round numbers above 1,000,000 smokers of foreign opium. The population of China is spoken of as amounting to more than 400,000,000, and may be fairly pronounced to be something above 800,000,000.

Taking it at the latter figure, so as to be within the mark, and estimating opium smokers at 1,000,000, and proceeding with the calculation, the result is that  $3\frac{1}{4}$  in every 1,000 smoke; that is, that opium smoking is practised by one third of one per cent. of the population.

In addition to the foreign drug there is also the native product. Concerning this, Mr. Hart says reliable statistics cannot be obtained. All that is definitely known is, that the native produce does not exceed foreign import in quantity and that it was known, produced, and used long before any Europeans began the sale of the foreign drug along the coast. Granting then, that the quantity is equal, another 1,000,000 smokers are amply provided for so that, in all, only two thirds of one per cent. of the population of China are habitually addicted to the vice. The native product sells for one half the price obtained for the foreign drug, and may be estimated to be paid for with, say, £8,400,000 by 1,000,000 who spend  $5\frac{1}{2}$ d. daily. The total amount spent by China on this luxury produced at home and imported from abroad, is thus, say, £25,000,000 annually. Mr. Hart summarises as follows:—

"Examined in this way the result arrived at is that 200,000 chests, or almost 12,000 tons [1,680 catties—one ton], of unprepared opium are consumed annually by 2,000,000 opium-smokers; that these smokers expend £25,000,000 on opium; that this is an expenditure of, say, from  $5\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 11d. daily by individual smokers; and that all the smokers amount to only two-thirds of one per cent. of the population. If more than 3 *mace* apiece is consumed daily by smokers, then smokers are less numerous; if less than 3 *mace*, then smokers are more numerous, and smoking individually less harmful. The truth is that many smoke more than 3 *mace* and many less, but from the statistical point of view it is safe to say that opium-smokers in China constitute simply two-thirds of one per cent. of the population. On the supposition even that the quantity of native opium produced is ten times that of the foreign opium imported, the total will not yet suffice for the consumption of even four per cent. of the population. Four per cent. is a small per-centage, but in China it means twelve millions of people. It is hardly credible, however, that native opium is produced in such quantity; but whatever the number of opium-smokers may really be—and allowing that many people smoke without injury,—there must in any case be a per-centage of smokers for whom the habit works nothing but evil."

Chinese, who have devoted their attention to the subject, regard the traffic with anything but favor:—

"Chinese who have studied the opium question are opposed to a traffic which more or less harms smokers now numbering, say, over two millions, and annually increasing; at the same time they admit that opium provides a large revenue, that the expenditure for opium and liability to the incidence of opium taxation touch an infinitesimally small per-centage of the population, and that neither the finances of the state, nor the wealth of its people, nor the growth of its population, can be specially damaged by a luxury which only draws from  $5\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 11d. apiece a day from the pockets of those who indulge in it, and which is indulged in by only two-thirds of one per cent. of the population. They admit all this, but they do not

find in either the revenue produced or the statistical demonstration of its per-centage innocuousness any sufficient reason for welcoming the growth of the trade or for desisting from the attempt to check the consumption of opium."

One of the queries propounded to Commissioners by Mr. Hart was to "ascertain the general opinion as to the length of time—months or years—a man must smoke before the habit takes such hold on him as to be very difficult, if not impossible, to be given up."

The replies on this point were most unanimous. We reproduce Mr. Mackey's (Commissioner at Wenchow) as being more explicit than the others:—

"As to the length of time when the habit of smoking takes such hold as to make it impossible or very difficult to give it up, only a general answer can be given. So much depends upon the moral will, the bodily constitution, and general health of the person concerned—and this varies greatly in different individuals,—so that no fixed time will apply to all alike. With some it is easy to break off after one year, without the aid of medicine; others, if assisted by medicine, can discontinue after smoking two or three years; but if the habit has been indulged in for six or seven years it then becomes extremely difficult to abstain, even with the aid of medicine. Various missionary writers who have published their views on this subject—and it is mainly the missionary class who have felt the interest and taken the trouble to do so, as being in their line of duty,—are pretty generally agreed on the following points:—(a) Opium-smoking is an acquired habit, and is not pleasant to the novice; (b) the pipe is usually resorted to in the first instance to alleviate pain or control sickness; (c) the smoker who takes his pipe at stated and regular intervals becomes a greater slave to the habit than he who smokes at irregular intervals—the first cannot break off the habit without extreme difficulty, while the latter, if he chooses, can do so; (d) temperate smokers do not visibly injure their health by the indulgence; (e) intemperate ones ruin their bodily constitutions, and their property is gradually dissipated; (f) they die early, and mostly in misery."

From the foregoing it will be seen that, in a comparative sense, opium smoking in China is not carried to such a very great excess after all—certainly not nearly as great as that of dram-drinking at home. Exeter-Hallites and pulpit-orators generally may possibly be able to extract a few grains of comfort from the common sense statements of Mr. Hart and perhaps, on the principle of charity beginning at home, be hereafter induced to limit their well-meant efforts towards the reformation of the many thousands of drunkards, thieves, pickpockets, wife-beaters &c. who infest the streets of London and other towns in the United Kingdom. Exeter Hall philanthropy is certainly not at premium amongst the Chinese or any other natives of the east; they are not clamorous for it and are never likely to be. That "come over and help us" legend emanates from the fertile imagination of writers of missionary tracts and has no foundation in fact.

It is said that eight or nine members of the Genro-in urged His Excellency, Sanjo Daijo Daijin that a certain sangi should be discharged from his office, and that if he was not the consequences would be dangerous.

## Law Reports.

IN THE YOKOHAMA SAIBANSHO.

Before NAKAMURA MOTOTOSHI, Esq., Judge.

Thursday, September 29th, 1881.

VIGAN &amp; Co. vs. ICHIKAWA MOTOKICHI.

The petition of the plaintiffs sheweth as follows:—

That on the 5th. of September 1881 the plaintiffs sold the defendant 24 piculs of zinc at the price of \$9.10 per picul. That on the 6th. of the same month, thinking that all the kegs of zinc in their godown contained but 1 picul each, the plaintiffs delivered 24 kegs to the defendant.

That 6 days afterwards, seeing that a great number of Japanese came to buy zinc, the plaintiffs examined their books and found by their invoices that each keg contained  $4\frac{1}{2}$  piculs instead of only one.

That M. Renard of the plaintiffs' firm accompanied by his interpreter Yamamura thereupon immediately went to the defendant, who at once acknowledged to having found each keg to contain  $4\frac{1}{2}$  piculs, but refused to return them without giving any reasons for such refusal.

The plaintiffs therefore pray this Honourable Court:—That the 18 kegs which the defendant is unlawfully retaining until such time at which the court shall have decided this petition.

The 18 kegs contain 75 piculs, which at the rate of \$9.10 amounts to \$686.96.

In reply to this petition the defendant put in the following answer:

That on the 6th. of September 1881 the defendant purchased from the plaintiffs 24 kegs of zinc at the price of \$9.10 per keg, and paid \$50.00 bargain money thereon.

That on the following day defendant paid the plaintiffs the balance of the purchase money, i.e. \$168.40 and took delivery of the said 24 kegs of zinc.

That on the 15th. day of September the defendant sold the whole lot to one Echigoya Shichibei, a Tokio merchant for the sum of yen 1,172.158.

That the said Echigoya had at first agreed to take delivery of the whole lot and pay for the same on the same day, but finally took delivery of only 12 kegs and paid for them the sum of yen 686.00 promising to take delivery of the balance and pay for the same in a few days.

That on the 16th. of September Mr. Renard accompanied by an interpreter came to defendant's place and requested him not to send away the remaining 12 kegs, to which defendant answered, that, as the goods had already been resold to a third party, and were merely kept by the defendant at the said third party's disposal, he could not say how long he might keep them, as they might be sent for at any moment.

That Mr. Renard thereupon went to the Sakaicho Police-station and requested that a Police officer be set to watch the 12 kegs at the defendant's place.

That the defendant was thereupon ordered to appear at the said police station, with which order he at once complied.

That at the police station the defendant was asked whether he had anything to say against Mr. Renard's request being complied with, to which he answered that there was no reason why such measures should be adopted against him. That on the 17th. day

of September the defendant was summoned by this Honorable Court and was forbidden to remove the said zinc to any other place until judgment should have been given in the matter. That the plaintiffs in their petition state that they sold the zinc at \$9.10 cents per picul and that they therefore demand that the defendant return them 18 kegs or else pay for them.

That this statement is not true because the bargain was made at \$9.10 cents per keg, and that therefore I am not obliged to comply with the plaintiffs' demand.

That if the bargain had been made by weight such weight should have been fixed when the goods were delivered in the presence of both parties.

That the plaintiffs' claim is a wrongful one and that the defendant therefore prays that the plaintiffs' petition be dismissed.

After hearing the statements of both parties, the Court gave the following

## JUDGMENT.

The principal point in this case is, whether the zinc in question was sold by weight or by the keg without reference to weight.

In the plaintiffs' books the weight of the 24 kegs of zinc imported from France is put down to 10,040 piculs at a cost price laid down here of \$724.40, besides an amount for charges, such as duty, coolie-hire and sundries of \$89.26.

The defendant states that when he bought the zinc he thought it weighed about 150 catties per keg, but on weighing it after having taken delivery he found it to be over 410 catties: That this was much more than he had expected, but that that was no reason why he should return any of it to the seller, because the goods were bought by the keg without any reference to weight.

The Court holds that every article of merchandise has a certain market value. Of course it sometimes happens in special cases that an article is sold much cheaper than such market price, but this never takes place unless there are special circumstances existing which render such proceedings necessary. And in the present case the Court cannot see any such special circumstances. If it be supposed that the price for one keg containing more than 410 catties had been fixed at \$9.10, the plaintiffs must have sold the goods in question for only one quarter of their cost price, which is very improbable.

Besides the plaintiffs have stated that in no country is zinc sold by the keg without reference to weight, which statement the defendant could not contradict. In fact the defendant admits that heretofore he has never yet bought as much zinc as is contained in one keg, and that in reselling the zinc in question to Echigoya he also fixed the price by weight.

From the above it therefore appears that the price of the zinc in question was fixed by weight, and that, owing to carelessness and a mistake on the part of the plaintiffs, they have delivered 24 kegs each containing  $4\frac{1}{2}$  piculs. It is therefore proper that the defendant should return to the plaintiffs that part of the goods which he has received over and above what he should have. But the defendant having already resold the whole lot to Echigoya the plaintiffs instead claimed (in the hearing) that he be ordered to pay over to them the amount received by him for that part of the goods which was delivered him by mistake, for the plaintiffs well know that they cannot demand that the defendant return them the article itself, since he has now no longer the

right of property. And this demand of the plaintiffs is but just. Fixing the price per picul, the defendant resold the zinc to Echigoya \$2.10 cheaper than the price of the plaintiffs. But taking the whole lot the defendant bought the 24 kegs for \$218.40, and resold them at \$705.90, leaving him a profit of \$487.20.

The court therefore orders the defendant to pay over to the plaintiffs the sum of \$487.20 less the expenses for carriage of the goods.

YOKOHAMA SAIBANSHO.

Yokohama, Sept. 29th, 1881.

Saturday, October 1st., 1881.

H. LUDWIG &amp; Co. vs. SHIMIDZU SOTOKU.

The petition of the plaintiffs sheweth as follows:—

1.—That the plaintiffs were in the habit of dealing with the defendant and frequently made him cash advances on silk.

2.—That on the 15th. of June 1880 there was due to the plaintiffs for advances thus made the sum of \$1,987.00 for which amount the defendant on the 10th. of July of the same year gave them his promissory note payable in September 1880. (Exhibit No. 1).

3.—That subsequently on the 10th. of August 1880 the plaintiffs advanced the defendant the sum of \$1,800.00, and again on the 26th. of the same month the sum of \$1,500.00, which sums were paid to the defendant through the agency of one Tonomura, merchant of Yokohama. (Exhibit No. 2).

4.—That on the 28th. of September 1880 the plaintiffs further advanced the defendant the sum of \$950.00 for which he gave them his promissory note payable upon his return here. (Exhibit No. 3).

5.—That against these sums the plaintiffs received silk from the defendant to the amount only of \$4,536.79 namely on the 20th. of September 1880 to the amount of \$129.04 and on the 26th. of March 1881 to the amount of \$4,407.75.

6.—That there is therefore now due to the plaintiffs from the defendant a balance of \$1,700.21 together with interest on the same at the rate of 1 per cent. a month as agreed to by the defendant in Exhibit No. 3.

7.—That all efforts to induce the defendant to pay to the plaintiffs this said balance due them have remained fruitless.

The plaintiffs therefore pray this Honorable Court:—

1.—That the defendant be ordered to pay to the plaintiffs the sums of \$950.00 and \$750.21 still due them.

2.—That the defendant be ordered to pay to the plaintiffs interest at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum on the sum of \$1,987.00 commencing from the 15th. of June 1880 up to the 10th. of August 1880.

3.—That the defendant be ordered to pay to the plaintiffs interest on the sum of \$3,787.00 at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum commencing from the 10th. of August 1880 up to the 26th. of the same month.

4.—That the defendant be ordered to pay to the plaintiffs interest on the sum of \$5,287.00 at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum commencing from the 26th. of August 1880 up to the 20th. of September 1880.

5.—That the defendant be ordered to pay to the plaintiffs interest at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum on the sum of \$5,157.96, being the total of all the above-named sums together less \$129.04 amount of his invoice of the 20th. September 1880, commencing from the 20th. of September 1880 up to the 26th. of March 1881.



6.—That the defendant be ordered to pay to the plaintiffs interest at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum on the sum of \$750.21 being the balance of the above-named \$5,157.96 cents after deducting defendant's invoice amount of the 26th. of March 1881, commencing from the said 26th. of March 1881 up to the date of payment.

7.—That the defendant be ordered to pay to the plaintiffs interest at the rate of 1 per cent. per month on the sum of \$950, amount of his promissory note of the 28th September 1880, commencing from the 28th of September 1880 up to the date of payment.

8.—That the defendant be ordered to pay the costs of this suit, and that the plaintiffs may have such further relief as the nature of the case may require and as this Honorable Court may seem fit.

To which the defendant put in the following reply :

1.—That the promissory note for \$1,987 was given to the plaintiffs in pursuance of a contract entered into between the defendant and one Moridzumi Tokuzo, an *employé* of the plaintiffs, in June 1879, by which the defendant agreed to supply plaintiffs with raw silk during one year from the said date, at a certain price per 100 catties.

2.—That the plaintiffs advanced the defendant the sum of 4,000 yen on this contract, and that in conformity to this contract the defendant subsequently supplied the plaintiffs with such silk.

3.—That however during contract time, that is to say in February and March 1880, the market value of silk fell, and the silk that had been contracted for at \$800 per 100 catties was then worth only from \$600 to \$700.

4.—That this being the case the plaintiffs were losing considerable money, while on the contrary the defendant was making a large profit, and that the plaintiffs requested the defendant to cease sending them any more silk and to cancel the contract.

5.—That the defendant at first refused to cancel the contract as he still owed the plaintiffs a balance of \$1,987.00, but that subsequently on the defendant's coming to Yokohama on the 10th. of July 1880, he agreed to cancel the contract upon the plaintiffs promising him a loan of yen 5,000.00 to be made by the 30th. of September 1880, which promise plaintiffs gave the defendant in writing.

6.—That the plaintiffs failed to carry out the agreement to lend defendant the yen 5,000.00, and that as the latter only agreed to cancel the original contract and give the plaintiffs his promissory note for \$1,987.00 on being promised the benefit of that loan, and as the defendant if he had not cancelled the original contract would have easily paid off the 1,987.00 out of the profits of silk shipments under that contract, the defendant submits that he is in no manner indebted to the plaintiffs.

7.—That the plaintiffs' claiming interest on the amount of \$1,987.00 is also unreasonable, it was agreed that no interest should be paid on the same, therefore also no interest is mentioned in the promissory note itself.

The defendant therefore submits that the plaintiffs having failed to carry out their agreement with him, he is now in no manner indebted to them, and prays that their petition be dismissed.

Mr. Uchiyama Rossetsu appeared for the plaintiffs, the defendant was represented by Mr. Okamoto Chuza.

Mr. Uchiyama Rossetsu called several witnesses and then put in the following argument :

1.—In the first place it seems to me requisite to prove who was responsible for the proper execution of the contract with defendant.

The document itself shows that it is a contract between defendant and Moridzumi himself. But the defendant's counsel in his answer to the petition and also in his cross-examination of witness seemed to be particularly anxious to make it appear that Moridzumi had made the contract on behalf of and as representative of the plaintiffs. I submit that I cannot see what difference it makes in this case who was the original maker for three reasons :

1st.—Because plaintiffs admit that they took over the contract, and were responsible for its execution.

2nd.—Because the defendant acquiesced in this arrangement, and afterwards during the whole contract time dealt direct with the plaintiffs, and even gave them his promissory note for the balance due from him out of this contract.

3rd.—Because the contract on the part of the plaintiffs was fully executed.

So that, even admitting for argument's sake that Moridzumi made the contract as plaintiffs' representative, the defendant's position is just the same.

It is therefore clear that, whoever made the said contract, the plaintiffs on the one hand and the defendant on the other were responsible for its proper execution.

2.—The next point to be settled is :—

Did the plaintiffs execute the contract or did they break it ?

The defendant's counsel in his answer to the petition alleges that in February or March 1880, the market price being considerably below the contract price, the plaintiffs had requested defendant to cease shipping them any more goods and to cancel the contract. That the defendant had at first refused to do so, but that on being promised a loan of 5,000 yen in September he had at last consented and given them the promissory note for \$1,987.00 which otherwise he would not have done.

My learned opponent seems for the moment to have forgotten that in making such an assertion it is necessary to bring the requisite evidence to prove it, for he has failed to produce even the smallest particle of testimony to support the same.

This allegation implies that the plaintiffs broke the contract and then only got defendant's promissory note by promising him a loan of money.

Although the burden of proving this assertion really lies with the defendant, I have taken the trouble to prove conclusively that such a thing never took place. I have proved it not only by the depositions of the witness Fukushima Chuji one of Mr. Tonomura's *banto*, who is certainly an entirely impartial and trustworthy witness not being in the least connected with the plaintiff's firm, but also through the fact that at the time when plaintiffs promised the defendant the loan of a certain sum of money (Plaintiff's Exhibit No. 5), the contract had long since expired, because the plaintiff's Exh. No. 5 is dated July the 10th. 1880, and the contract had expired more than a month before that. As to the market price in the beginning of the year 1880 being considerably lower than the contract price, the plaintiffs have never denied it. The plaintiffs freely admit that they lost money on the contract, but they emphatically

deny ever having asked the defendant to cancel the same.

From this fact it is also clear that the amount \$1,987 of defendant's promissory note is the exact balance due by him to the plaintiffs at the end of the contract, for if the plaintiffs are not guilty of any breach of contract, they are justified in demanding the full amount due them.

3.—The next question is :—

Did the plaintiffs break their agreement to advance defendant a certain sum of money by the 30th. day of September ?

As I have already conclusively shown that the plaintiffs never broke the contract, their Exh. No. 4 and that consequently the balance of \$1,987.—was the exact amount due them, there is no reason why they should have compromised the matter with the defendant, and promised him a loan by the 30th. of September, if he would give them the promissory note for those \$1,987.

Besides, if plaintiffs had wished to, they could easily have lent defendant a sum of money when he asked for it, i.e. on the 10th. of July, but they preferred not to do so until he should first have paid them the amount still due them. The agreement was therefore made on just the opposite understanding from that alleged by the defendant, for it was made under the understanding that plaintiffs would advance the defendant a sum not exceeding yen 5,000.00 by the 30th. of September 1880, if he had first paid them the amount of his indebtedness to them. And as he failed to do so they were perfectly justified in mistrusting him and refusing to make him any further advance. That is what the plaintiffs would have been justified in doing, but they were not so careful. On the contrary, notwithstanding the fact that the defendant's promissory note was payable during September, and notwithstanding the fact that up to the 28th. of that month he had failed to pay the same, the plaintiffs on that day advanced him the sum of \$950.00 and if he had paid them the amount of his old indebtedness two days later, would in fact have been ready to make him a further advance.

However, even supposing, for argument's sake, that the agreement had been made with the understanding as alleged by the defendant, namely that defendant should pay the amount of his old indebtedness *after* having received a new advance from the plaintiffs, I submit that the plaintiffs fully carried out the agreement by their payment of \$950.00 on the 28th. of September, because their paying this sum on that day is in accordance with the words "*Kugatsu sanjuu nichi kagiri*" in that agreement meaning "any time before, but not after the 30th. September," and their payment of the amount of \$950.00 is in accordance with the words "*Go sen yen kagiri*," meaning "any amount less than, but not more than yen 5,000," so that even had they paid him only 100 or 200 yen this would not have been a breach of contract. It is therefore beyond a doubt that the plaintiffs did not break their agreement. (Defendant's Exh. No. 2.)

4.—I now come to the question of accounts, which seems to me so clear that there is hardly need of any argument, because every item, with the exception of two (and those are in the defendant's favour), are represented by documents.

The receipt of yen 4,000 advance on the contract of course is acknowledged in the contract itself. The payments against this sum were made to the plaintiffs through the agency of Tonomura. The latter has a re-

ceipt for each separate amount, and each item tallies exactly with those in the plaintiffs' account. The total of the amounts thus paid back to the plaintiffs through the agency of Tonomura is yen 1,498.752 (he has it yen 1,498.758, a difference of 6 rin), making \$1324.45 figured at the value of yen on the date when each payment was made.

The defendant is next credited with an amount of \$311.35 for difference in exchange in his favour, and debited with the interest on the loan, leaving the balance due plaintiffs exactly \$1,987 which the defendant acknowledges by his promissory note.

Herewith the contract expires and the subsequent advance as well as the subsequent shipments of silk have no connection with the same. The 10th. and 26th. 1880 of \$1,800 and \$1,500 are proved by plaintiffs' Exh. No. 2, a receipt from Tonomura who received them.

Against these two sums the plaintiffs received two lots of silk. One on the 20th. of September, for which there seems to be no vouchers, amounting to \$129.04, and other on the 26th. of March 1881, amounting to \$4,407.75 which is proved by Tonomura's memorandum.

Then the last amount advanced by the plaintiffs to the defendant on the 28th. of September 1880 is \$950. which is proved by his promissory note.

The balance of accounts therefore as said before, namely \$750.214 and \$950, are all supported by incontestable evidence.

The only point where a question might arise is that of interest. The defendant's counsel's assertion that the \$1,987.00 were without interest is ridiculous on the face of it, because that amount is the exact balance due out of the contract, which calls for 8 per cent. interest per annum. As to the \$950.00 the interest is specified in the promissory note itself to be 1 % per month. The only amounts for which no interest has been fixed are the \$1,800.00 and \$1,500.00. The plaintiff would certainly not have made these advances at the low rate of 8 % per annum, because the customary interest among foreign merchants in Yokohama is 12 % per annum. But as no interest was stipulated at the time they do not feel themselves justified in claiming more than 8 per cent, because the defendant might have been under the impression that these advances were made at the same rate as the 4,000 yen advanced on the former contract.

Mr. Okamoto did not call any witnesses but put in the following argument in answer to that of Mr. Uchiyama.

The original contract between plaintiffs and the defendant was not carried out to the end, but cancelled at the request of the plaintiff. Before cancelling the same, however, the defendant asked the plaintiffs what allowance they would make him on the \$1,987; if he agreed to cancel the same, whereupon the plaintiffs, knowing that they were making losses on the contract gave the defendant the written promise to lend him 5,000 yen, and stipulated that the defendant on the day fixed in that agreement should pay them the balance of \$1,987. due them.

If we read over the records of the 1st and 2nd hearings we find that the plaintiffs contradict themselves, and the statement made by plaintiffs witnesses and the plaintiffs themselves differ so much that the defendant has much trouble in getting at the plaintiffs' real point. But as luckily the plaintiff's attorney has put in an argument which is somewhat near the real facts the defendants will for a while suppose this to be a true statement and will answer to the

principal points of the same in their order. The principal points then are:—

- 1.—Did the plaintiffs or did the defendant desire the cancelling of the original contract?
- 2.—Did the defendant give his note for \$1,987. to plaintiffs after they had given him their promise for yen 5,000.?
- 3.—Are the \$750. lent to defendant to be considered as a sum paid to the defendant under the agreement to lend the defendant yen 5,000. or not?
- 4.—In defendant's promissory note for \$1,987 nothing is said of interest. Have the plaintiffs nevertheless the right to demand interest on that sum as coming out of the original contract.

1.—I shall now prove the 1st. point, viz., who it was, that requested that the contract be cancelled.

The plaintiffs make a great many statements in regard to the point that they did not request the cancelling of the contract. But when a man makes a contract for certain goods not knowing what value they will have later on, and these goods afterwards become cheap it is quite clear to whose interest it is to have the contract cancelled.

Now in the contract No. 1 silk is fixed at \$805 and No. 2 at \$790 which silks from February to May fell considerably in price which has been admitted by plaintiffs, and in the hearing of the 5th. July their witness, Tonomura's *banto*, Fukushima Chiuji, stated that those silks from February to May were worth only from about \$700 to \$630.

Notwithstanding this the plaintiffs deny ever having requested defendant to cancel the contract. But it is quite clear that the plaintiffs were losing money and the defendant was making a profit. There is of course no evidence who asked to have the contract cancelled, but it is quite clear from the fact that plaintiffs were the losers and defendant the gainer that the plaintiffs were the ones who did so.

2.—I have shown in the above argument, that if the original contract had been carried out the defendant's profit and plaintiffs' loss for each 100 catties would have been about \$150.

Therefore if all the goods had been delivered there would be about \$1,500 profit and loss.

Therefore in order to get this contract cancelled the plaintiffs had to give the defendant the promise to lend him 5,000 yen, before he consented to give them his note for \$1,987, and if the plaintiffs had refused to give the defendant the said promise the defendant would certainly have refused to cancel the original contract.

The matter is therefore a compromise.

Again the plaintiffs in their argument say that the argument to lend defendant the 5,000 yen was dated the 10th. July and that the contract had expired one month previous. But this is easily explained, because the defendant being a man of Saitama ken did not live in Yokohama but only came occasionally, and he did not exchange documents with the plaintiffs until that day, because he had not come to Yokohama before, but the arrangement had been made verbally long ago.

3.—The plaintiffs' saying that they carried out their part of the contract to give 5,000 yen by giving defendant the sum of \$950 is just like a man selling bamboo wood, and a beer a horse and I will prove this as follows:

What kind of money is that which the plaintiffs promised to lend to the defendant

and what kind are the \$950? The former is a mere loan, while the latter is an advance made on silk. No matter how smart the plaintiffs' attorney is in argument the character of the transactions is different, therefore he cannot insist that the \$950 were an advance made under the 5,000 yen agreement.

4.—The plaintiffs state in their argument that as the amount \$1,987 has come out of the original contract being balance on these transactions they have the right to demand 8 per cent interest thereon as fixed in the original contract. But as the defendant gave the note for \$1,987 in exchange for plaintiffs' promise to lend him money both parties are well aware that no interest was to be charged which is also provided by no interest being named in the document itself.

If the plaintiffs' attorney doubts this let him look at the document for \$950, there he will find the interest clearly fixed at 1 per cent. per month and in No. 4 8 per cent. have been fixed while in the \$1,987 case nothing is fixed which clearly shows the thing.

Therefore the plaintiffs have no right whatever to demand any interest on the grounds that the \$1,987 were a balance out of the original contract.

Mr. Uchiyama made a brief reply to this argument whereupon the court gave the following.

#### JUDGMENT.

In this case the three principal points are:

- 1.—For how long a period of time was the original contract made.

- 2.—If the plaintiffs did not lend defendant the 5,000 yen as agreed, does this absolve defendant from his obligation to pay them the balance due them by him.

- 3.—Is the defendant bound to pay interest to the plaintiffs on the amounts of their Exhibits 1 and 2.?

As to the first point the contract speaks for itself, for in the second article thereof it is clearly mentioned that it is a contract for silk shipments during one year i.e. from June 1879 to May 1880, and no longer.

Regarding the second point the defendant states that the value of silk had considerably fallen in February or March 1880 (during contract-time) so that the plaintiffs would have sustained a considerable loss if silks had been delivered to them at the price agreed upon in the original contract. That the plaintiffs therefore requested the defendant to cancel the said contract. That the defendant agreed to do so upon the plaintiffs promising him the benefit of a loan not exceeding yen 5,000. That this loan was to be made on the 30th. September and that the defendant was on the same day to pay plaintiffs the amount of his promissory note for \$1,987, and that written agreements were exchanged between the parties to this effect on the 10th. of July. That the defendant had not paid plaintiffs the balance, because they on their part had not lent him the money as promised by the 30th. of September.

However plaintiffs' agreement of the 10th. of July cannot be considered as having been made in consideration of the defendant's cancelling the original contract, because that expired by itself at the end of one year, as shown above.

Besides the defendant's attorney admits that the defendant came to Yokohama in March, and then goes on to say that it was at that time agreed to cancel the original contract although written agreements were not exchanged until the 10th. of July. The latter part of this statement however cannot be taken into consideration by the court, as it is not supported by any proof.

Now if we examine the plaintiffs agreement, we must take it to be a document promising a loan not exceeding yen 5,000.00 by the 30th. of September on account of future silk transactions between the parties. If this be the case it can not be said that the plaintiffs committed a breach of contract, for they lent the defendant the sum of \$950, on the 28th of September, as stated by their attorney. If on the other hand we consider that the plaintiffs gave the promise without any reference to silk transactions, and merely promised to lend the defendant a sum not exceeding yen 5,000—for an unlimited period of time and without interest (for neither are stated in the document itself) it would become nothing more than a promise of *friendly assistance*, and the plaintiff could then not be blamed for refusing to lend the money if afterwards circumstances prevented them from so doing.

Besides the \$1,700.20 at the amount of plaintiff's claim is not only the balance due them out of the original contract, but includes balance of late transactions (exhibits 2 and 3) and is therefore a balance of all the silk transactions they had with the defendant, as is clearly shown in the plaintiff's petition and argument.

The defendant is therefore not justified in denying plaintiff's whole claim by resting his defence on the Exh. No. 1.

As to the 3rd. point the defendant insists that even though he be forced to pay plaintiffs the principal of the promissory note, he is not obliged to pay them interest thereon, because nothing of the kind is stipulated in that document. But the defendant has already admitted that the amount of his promissory note is the balance out of silk transactions under the original contract, and in article 8 of that contract it is mentioned that interest shall be charged at 8 per cent. per annum; and by that article it appears that from the original amount of 4,000 yen lent to the defendant the shipments of silk shall be deducted at the rate of yen 135 per picul adding the 8 per cent. per annum interest each time that such delivery takes place. This being the case there is no reason why the interest on the balance of the original loan of 4,000 yen agreed to in the original contract should cease, although interest be not expressly stipulated in defendant's promissory note. The defendant's argument on this point therefore does not hold good.

On the other hand no rate of interest has been fixed in Exhibits 2 and 3 while the plaintiffs claim interest at the rate of 8 per cent the rate stipulated in the original contract. But what is stipulated in one contract cannot hold good for another. However, the defendant must pay legal interest at the rate of 6 per cent. on these amounts commencing from the date when the plaintiffs filed their petition.

The court therefore gives judgment in favour of the plaintiffs and orders the defendant to pay them the sum of \$1,700.20 together with interest as specified above and orders both parties to bear their own costs.

YOKOHAMA SAIBANSHO.

October 1st., 1881.

The *Mai Nichi Shinbun* remarks that through the exertion of some rich merchants at Yokohama the silk question will be peacefully settled; particulars of the arbitration will be given as soon as obtained.

## TO THE NICHU NICHU SHINBUN.

On the 4th instant you formulated certain charges against foreign merchants in justification of the establishment of the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho. Those charges were of a grave character, imputing certain acts some of which are little, if at all, short of criminal offences; they were utterly untrue; and they were calculated, and specially intended, to arouse among the people of the interior, a feeling of suspicion, distrust, and hatred of and against a few foreign merchants, who have been honestly striving to increase the commerce of Japan and to promote the general prosperity.

On the following day we traversed and explained away every charge you had so recklessly preferred; and appealed to your sense of justice to give as equal publicity to the justification of foreign merchants as you had done to the accusations which called forth the defence. We appealed to you as men worthy of the name, and in the sincere belief that you would, in common fairness, withdraw the charges you had made, or seek and publish evidence to substantiate them. You have allowed two entire days to pass by, a long time in matters of so much moment, and your issues of the 7th. and 8th. instant contain no reference whatever to the matter.

We now assure you, in plain terms, that you have been guilty of publishing a series of unjustifiable libels upon foreign merchants; and that you have neither the manliness nor sense of fair play to correct your error, or even to attempt its justification. You thought you could stab in the dark with safety; formulate serious libels in a language all the country can understand confident that their refutation can not be read; and, to crown your treachery, and seal your infamy, when your libels are exposed you seek refuge in—silence.

Better for us all to understand the stuff of which some of the conductors of the Japanese press are made, and the injury they can do to the nation and to us for all time in order to serve an unworthy and utterly contemptible means to their personal advantage; because, knowing what sort of treatment we have to expect, we may guard ourselves as best we may, knowing that in Japan the Press is a synonym for DISHONOUR.

## RESTRICTIONS UPON TRADE.

IN the *Mai Nichi Shinbun* of 6th instant appeared the following:—

### NOTICE.

We hereby notify producers of and dealers in silk in the producing districts, that in consequence of a difficulty having arisen between the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho at Yokohama and the foreign merchants of the same place, that at a special meeting of the *Ginko Shukwaisho* (Bank Association) held on the 3rd. instant, a resolution was passed that all banks belonging to this association shall henceforward decline to make any advances whatever on raw silk, &c. (to be conveyed from the producing districts to Yokohama) consigned to any person not being a member of the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho; and that this resolution remain in force until the difficulties are brought to an end.

All national banks of any importance belong to the *Ginko Kwaisha*, and foremost among them is said to be the *Shokin Ginko*, or Specie Bank, an active promoter of this

resolution. The *Shokin Ginko* is a government institution: it was created by government order; one third of the capital was openly subscribed, and the remainder guaranteed, by the government.

Of the paper-issuing national banks many are directly government institutions; and their acts must be regarded as the acts of the government, for how can we separate the government from the notice published in the *Mai Nichi Shinbun*?

We may here point to the charge recently made against foreign shipping companies of refusing to carry produce shipped by Japanese direct without the intervention of a foreigner; a charge quickly declared to be a fabrication. While this false report was being circulated to prejudice the action of foreigners, Japanese direct traders negotiated drafts against direct shipments with foreign banks, upon bills of lading granted by foreign shipping companies; all in the usual course: and the native bankers, in return for the consideration their countrymen had received, proceed to declare that they will refuse to advance against silk to be sent to Yokohama, unless the silk be consigned to one of twenty-six brokers who have formed a combination to monopolize the whole trade with foreign merchants resident in this settlement. Is the conduct of the banks legal or otherwise? Illegal we believe, because, if their action involves the government, such interference is an open violation of the rights granted by treaty, and re-affirmed by the convention of 1866; section IX thereof providing:—

In conformity with the treaties concluded between Japan and the aforesaid powers, and with the special arrangements made by the envoys of the Japanese government in their note to the British government of the 6th June 1862, and in their note to the French government of the 6th October of the same year, all the restrictions on trade and intercourse between foreigners and Japanese alluded to in the said notes, have been entirely removed, and proclamations to this effect have already been published by the government of Japan.

The latter, however, do not hesitate to declare that Japanese merchants, and traders of all classes, are at liberty to trade directly, and without the interference of government officers, with foreign merchants, not only in the open ports of Japan, but also in all foreign countries.

If the *Machigaisho* and *Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho*, two institutions under the same control and belonging to the same people, are not placing "restrictions on trade and intercourse between foreigners and Japanese," what are they doing? What else is the object of their existence in open defiance of "the proclamations to this effect already published by the government of Japan"? To assist the projects of these institutions, the *Ginko Kwaisha* issues a notice openly placing restrictions upon trade intercourse; and this is seemingly the interference of government officers with foreign merchants, expressly declared in the second paragraph of section IX of the convention of 1866 to be prohibited.

We now come to later events wherein equally strong definitions of what constitutes interference have been given. When foreign merchants complained of the action of the *Kiito Aratame Kaisha*, what was the substance of H. E. OKUMA's notification of December 18, 1873? It was that all people may freely enter into dealings with foreigners; and "Further, no

obstacles are to be offered to the dealings of persons not belonging to a guild in respect of the transmission of their goods to an open port." Sir HARRY PARKES, in forwarding the translation of this notification to the Chamber of Commerce, made the following significant comments, which we reproduce in full as a guide in the present state of affairs. Sir HARRY PARKES wrote:—

His Excellency also forwards a notification of which I enclose a translation, in which interference on the part of this or other guilds with the free action of dealers not belonging thereto, is distinctly forbidden, and he adds the assurance that the Japanese government will diligently take measures for the removal of these obstructions to trade of which the foreign representatives have complained.

We conceive it does not require any special knowledge to perceive that when a government bank issues a notice in distinct opposition to the government notification of December 18th, 1873, and in violation of all treaty stipulations for freedom of trade intercourse, the question becomes one for immediate diplomatic intervention.

We stand upon the treaties. If certain conditions may be disregarded at the convenience of individuals, and the government are either unable or unwilling to correct the abuse, the sooner the treaties are declared at an end the better. All will prefer the entire abrogation of treaties which operate only to their prejudice; restrictions imposed upon us being rigidly enforced, while the scanty rights conferred upon us are openly ignored. Better far that these conventions should come to an end, than that they should be contemptuously broken at the will and pleasure of the twenty-six monopolists, who insolently defy the proclamations of their own government under the plea of being engaged, not in restricting commerce for their own purposes and gain, but in the recovery of lost commercial rights: rights which neither they, the government, nor foreigners can define.

We repeat that the case is sufficiently serious to call for instant protest by the foreign representatives; and such action should be respectfully urged upon them by public memorial. An objection to this course may be raised to the effect that a memorial on the silk question has been forwarded to the ministers and remains unanswered. On the 6th November 1873 Mr. WILKIN addressed the ministers in reference to the Kiito Aratame Kaisha, and on December 18th the notification asked for was issued. The memorial in reference to the present silk combination was dated in July, nearly three months ago. The impatience of the memorialists at the delay in replying to so simple a document is more than justified.

## SECOND ADDRESS FROM THE FOREIGN MERCHANTS OF YOKOHAMA TO THE SILK DEALERS AND PRODUCERS OF JAPAN AND TO THE JAPANESE PEOPLE GENERALLY.

In their former address the foreign merchants respectfully requested all who are concerned in the prosperity of the trade in silk, or in any other commerce, to consider the danger of entrusting monopolists with the management of business.

They were led to make this appeal to the producers of and dealers in Silk, not only because they have respect for the intelligence

of that class, but because the Japanese people generally have lately manifested much indignation with the efforts of a few monopolists to obtain control of certain industries and properties in which the public have a natural interest.

The foreign merchants had then, and have still, reason to apprehend that the Rengo Kiito Ni-adzukari-jo was but a new form of monopoly, and that the effects of its success would be that the business of ordinary men would be devoured by a few rich or powerful persons, to the final disadvantage of all others.

The members of the Rengo Kiito Ni-adzukari-jo have loudly declared however that, in this respect foreigners are too suspicious, and that their association had no such objects, and could have no such effects.

Under these circumstances, and inasmuch as men's real motives are not always discoverable at the first step, while future results are never quite certain, it might appear like obstinacy for foreigners to insist on the correctness of their view. Time will surely show whether their suspicions were correct or not, and in the meanwhile the discussion of this point may be postponed.

The present address will therefore deal with other matters, upon which it is important that the public should have correct information.

These matters are contained in a pamphlet lately issued by the Kiito Urikomi-doiya of Yokohama.

Hitherto the grievances of the native Silk dealers of Yokohama against the foreign merchants have been undefined. It is true that some of the Japanese newspapers have noticed the subject. But most of these journals are so bitterly hostile towards foreigners, and care so little about either truth or good manners, when foreigners are concerned, that their statements were regarded as too foolish and uncivilized to require any answer.

It is probable that such malignant statements mislead some ignorant people, and promote enmity when friendship would be more reasonable; but they cannot long deceive any one who is intelligent or who cares to ascertain the truth, and these last are the only kind of people who deserve consideration.

At last, however, the Silk dealers of Yokohama have declared their reasons for uniting to change the customs of the trade, and it seems expedient for the foreign merchants to take some notice of them, lest their silence should lead some honest men in Japan to suppose that these statements are true.

The foreign merchants therefore solicit the attention of the public to the following circumstances.

1.—That the accusations made by the Kiito Urikomidoiya are vague and general, instead of being defined and specific, as all accusations of wrong-doing ought to be. No examples or instances are given, but the abuses complained of are merely said to be "too great for description."

2.—That all foreigners equally are accused as if all were alike, or at least of one family, instead of being of many different nations, and quite independent of each other in their actions, as in fact they are. It would be plainly absurd for a foreigner not to distinguish between honest men and robbers in Japan, but these silk dealers decline to make any such distinctions among foreigners.

3.—That the statements which you are asked to accept as facts, are not accompanied by the least evidence, but are mere assertions

which you are expected to swallow without examination.

4.—That, when reform in the silk business is thought to be desirable, it is not the silk sellers in Yokohama who propose to bear any of the inconveniences connected with it. These inconveniences are to fall on the foreign buyer, and on the native producer of silk. But the prosperous commission agents of Yokohama, (many of whom were poor men only a few years ago, though now they are bank proprietors) are not to suffer in the least degree. On the contrary, they are to have more power and less trouble than before.

The foregoing reflections will readily occur to any one who carefully reads the document we are now considering; and they will naturally suggest the question whether the accusations against foreigners contained in it are true or false.

Now the foreign merchants wish to declare emphatically, that, as far as the majority of their number are concerned, and consequently as far as the greater part of the silk business is concerned, most of the statements made by the Kiito Urikomi-doiya are shamelessly and outrageously false.

It is not the duty of those who are accused to prove themselves innocent. It is for those who make accusations to prove that they are just. On this occasion, however, the foreign merchants will attempt to show the falsity of the charge made by the Kiito Urikomi-doiya by enquiries respecting the statements contained in their declaration.

1.—They pretend that foreigners have hitherto controlled the silk trade so that they, the silk dealers, and the country generally have suffered losses. But how is it possible that buyers of silk could ever "compel" sellers to deliver merchandise for inspection or for any other purpose? If silk has been for twenty years delivered into foreign godowns for inspection and for final adjustment of price and weight, must there not have been some better reason for such a practice than "violence" or "intimidation" on the part of the buyers?

Is it not evident that, if what the Urikomi-doiya say on this point were true, the silk business in Yokohama would have ceased long ago, immediately after the first transactions? Can any one believe that these commission agents have suffered for twenty years from outrage and injustice on the part of their customers, and yet in the meantime have grown from being poor and humble men to be rich and powerful?

Possibly, however, their distress is not on their own account, but on behalf of the producers and country merchants. But is it true that silk business has been unprofitable to the people of the interior? Does not every one know the contrary? And if the foreign buyer of silk has been obliged to protect himself against irregularity and fraud by getting the silk into his own premises before finally settling the quality, weight, or price, by whose fault does this happen?

Is it not well known that silk very seldom conforms to the sample shown or to the external appearance, and that any foreigner who buys it without careful inspection somewhere else than in the seller's house, is nearly sure to be deceived? Is it reasonable to suppose that foreigners would take all this trouble, and keep special places and expensive men solely for this work, if they were not compelled to do so by the dishonest practices of the sellers?

And when these same men suddenly say that deliveries to foreign godowns shall cease, and settlements shall hereafter be made



in the Japanese town, can it be expected that buyers should immediately forget all their former experience and have full confidence that hereafter all business shall be honestly done?

Again admitting that some neutral inspection place were expedient, is it necessary, or considerate, that it should be so placed, and so managed, that every possible inconvenience and annoyance should be inflicted on the buyers, while the sellers only gain advantage?

Further, if out of such dishonest practices as these which are known to have long existed in the packing and selling of silk, some abuses on the part of a few foreigners have grown up, is it wonderful that such should be the case? Abuses produce abuses, as wheat produces wheat. Can no other remedy be devised for such abuses than that the foreigners should be indiscriminately denounced as "greedy robbers," and that they alone, those who have always acted honorably not being excepted, should be now called to make all the concessions necessary for reform? Would it not be more reasonable to begin the reform where the abuses began, and then call on the foreigners to assist.

2.—It is said that some foreigners get silk into their hands not by way of purchase, but in order to sell it first by telegrams and afterwards to buy it. Without asking whether all foreigners, or even many of them, acted in this way, or whether it is reasonable to accuse a whole community for the acts of a few persons, let us ask how is it possible that this thing could have been done to any extent, or could have been submitted to more than once by the silk sellers?

There is nothing improper or unusual in making a purchase or a sale conditional upon telegraphic reply, any more than upon any other future event. Such transactions occur every day all over the world. They are not unknown in Japan. In import business between foreigners and Japanese the same thing is done every day. The only thing requisite to make such business quite legitimate is that the two parties shall agree to do it in this way. Let us suppose that a Silk merchant, having bought or contracted for a quantity of Silk in the country at a certain price, finds, on getting it to Yokohama, that the market is dull. What is more natural than that he should tempt the foreign buyer, and try to raise prices, by offering to send a lot of silk to the foreign godowns with the condition that it may remain there for a week or more under offer?

If this be done, and the delivery be reported as a sale, other merchants are led to buy and the market price rises for the time. It may fall afterwards, on the return of the silk sent to the foreigner, but meanwhile the native speculator sells his other silk profitably, and in the end has gained more, or lost less, than if he had kept the whole quantity unsold. All this is likely to have taken place. But where is it wrong or oppressive on the part of the foreigners? The outcry which is made on the subject does not prove any wrong whatever. And if there were any wrong in the transaction on the foreigners' part, has not the silk dealer an immediate remedy in his own hands? Can he not at once claim either the return of his silk or payment for it? With foreign courts open to him, and every honest man on his side, is it necessary for him to cry in the streets, or to denounce as thieves other foreigners who have not injured him? Can he not at least refuse to deal a second time with any person who has once ill-treated him? How can any sensible man believe

that such complaints as this are genuine, or that the whole country must be disturbed about such a matter? Is it not clear that people who cry in public and scold every body about grievances which they have themselves created and which they themselves alone can remedy, are very weak and very silly, or else are mere pretenders? Is it possible that the people of Japan will allow a great commerce to be thrown into confusion, and will endure losses, in order that such persons shall flourish? Would it not be at least prudent to wait until the facts can be calmly investigated?

3.—It is said that foreigners who have taken silk into their godowns upon offer, or for inspection, sometimes borrow money upon it before paying for it. Can any rational person believe that banks are so foolish as to lend foreigners money upon other people's property? What security would they have if they did so? How could they recover the loan when the property was returned to the silk dealer? Would the man who borrowed money in such a way be likely to be able in a few days to repay it? If any foreigner were known to act in this way he would be liable to imprisonment and disgrace. Ought not those who make such an infamous accusation to feel bound to offer strong and clear proof of it, and carefully to distinguish the offender from all honest men? Is it just to accuse a whole community indiscriminately of such shameful conduct? A great many foreigners have lost large sums of money by similar rascality on the part of Japanese. But what would be thought of any foreigner who, in consequence of such frauds, accused the whole Japanese people of being swindlers? Would not such absurd conduct deprive the victim of all consideration and sympathy?

4.—It is stated that by the new rules of weighing a great sum will be saved to Japan every year, while, under the illustration, it is said that a certain 140 Bales weighed 98 catties more by Japanese weighing than they did by the foreign weighing. But is it certain that the Japanese method of weighing was right and the foreign method wrong? Is it not quite possible that the contrary was the case? On this point the Urikomidoiya are suspiciously silent, yet light weight and short measure are not uncommon things in Japan.

In respect of silk it is well known that there is always a considerable loss in weight on the sale of the silk in Europe, even under the most liberal methods of weighing in Japan. If foreign buyers or direct shippers are to have this loss increased by the new methods of the Rengo Kiito Niadzukari-jo, will they not be obliged to reduce prices in Japan accordingly? How then can the sellers gain any money by the new method, and what is the advantage of a change which only yields angry disputations and general accusations of false dealing? If the figures stated by the Urikomidoiya are correct, the annual loss in weight by the old method amounts to no less than 5 per cent on the whole value of silk exported. If Japanese lose this 5 per cent, foreigners must be supposed to gain it. But how then can any one explain the notorious fact that Japanese silk when sold in Europe always loses in weight? What object can the Urikomidoiya have in making a statement with figures, which every merchant's books would prove to be erroneous? Is it possible that they have any private reason for trying to make the country merchants believe that when silk is sold to foreigners the usual loss in weight is 5 per cent?

5.—It is now said that the prevention of the above named unjust (but quite imaginary) profits on the part of foreigners is the great object of the new rules, and that improvement of the quality of the silk is but an indirect or subordinate object.

But why is this statement made to the silk owners in the country, when just the opposite statement has been made to the foreign merchants? The latter are asked to believe that the new rules were contrived chiefly for the improvement of silk, and not at all for the disadvantage of buyers. Is it not suspicious that such an entirely different reason is given to the silk owners? Can foreigners be blamed for refusing to rely on the smooth promises of men who are so clearly inconsistent, and for mistrusting a combination which offers such contradictory explanations of its intentions and motives?

If the new Rules are for the general benefit and not merely for the selfish advantage of a few persons, why is such double dealing as this considered expedient? If those who resort to such expedients are of honest purpose, is this mode of proceeding creditable to their intelligence?

6.—Another matter which has been turned into an accusation against foreigners is that of the payments which Japanese, both sellers and buyers, make to the servants in the foreign merchant's employment. Such a charge is not merely unjust, but it is utterly shameless and impudent. For not only do foreigners get no benefits from such payments, but they have always regarded them as a positive injury, because they know very well that such presents were originally made as a kind of bribe to induce their servants to act unfaithfully; and that whether they are still continued with the same purpose, or merely from custom, they are nevertheless bad and corrupting in their nature, and cannot possibly be for the foreigners' benefit.

What then can be thought of people who, after themselves establishing such a vicious custom, now turn it into an accusation against those who have suffered by it? Can even prejudiced men hesitate in condemning such flagrant misrepresentation?

Finally, the Urikomidoiya beg the public not to allow themselves to be deceived but to investigate the facts. This is precisely what the foreign merchants desire. If the public will but attend to this request, in which both parties seem to unite, the foreign merchants will rejoice. For they have made no effort and have no motive, to deceive. They do not attack any one. They do not propose to reform the objectionable practices of the silk dealers of Yokohama by force, or by arbitrary, insulting, and unjust proceedings. They do not denounce the sellers of silk as if they were all of the same character. They do not make improbable assertions without proof, neither do they ask the public to swallow transparently untrue statements on patriotic considerations.

All that they have asked is that, before the public approves and supports the proposed changes in the silk business, they will examine the facts of the case, and consider whether such changes are expedient, and whether those who promote them are sincere.

The foreign merchants earnestly and honestly declare that they are not opposed to reform. They are ready to cooperate, even at inconvenience to themselves, in any properly arranged measures for that object. During the last twenty years they have constantly advocated reforms in the silk trade. They have had very little assistance from the Urikomidoiya, but they have the pleasure of

knowing that their efforts have not been quite fruitless. On their suggestions the quality of several kinds of silk has been much improved in the country and the value thereby enhanced. Many producers of silk have honourably executed the reforms which the foreigners have urged. The foreign merchants have highly appreciated such action, and are disposed, in every way to promote further reforms. They heartily desire to assist in the development of the silk trade so that all engaged in it, both natives and foreigners may rejoice in its prosperity.

But they feel obliged to resist the present proposals and rules of the Rengo Kiito Nidzukurari-jo not only because they are put forward in an arbitrary manner, but because they impose unreasonable inconvenience upon buyers; because they appear intended to restrict trade rather than to promote it; and because it is incredible that changes of customs honestly designed for the general advantage should be proposed in such a way, or should need to be explained or justified by defamatory misrepresentations such as those which are herein exposed, and which are now submitted to the judgment of all fair minded men.

Yokohama, October, 1881.

## Shipping.

### ARRIVALS.

- Oct. 10, Jap. str. *Takasago-Maru*, Young, 1,280, from Hongkong via Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.  
 Oct. 10, Brit. str. *Ardantiens*, Jas. Walker, 411, from Nagasaki, 6th inst., Coates, to M. B. Co.  
 Oct. 11, Brit. str. *Gaelic*, Kidley, 1,704, from San Francisco, Mails and General, to O. & O. Co.  
 Oct. 11, Brit. str. *Castello*, Coates, 1,485, from Shanghai, Oct. 8th, General, to Smith, Baker & Co.  
 Oct. 12, Jap. str. *Shario-Maru*, Kilgour, 800, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.  
 Oct. 12, Jap. str. *Kokonoye-Maru*, Dithlefsen, 1,133, from Hakodate, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.  
 Oct. 13, Jap. str. *Hiroshima-Maru*, Haswell, 1,870, from Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.  
 Oct. 14, Jap. str. *Hiogo-Maru*, Walker, 896, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.  
 Oct. 14, Jap. str. *Kumamoto-Maru*, Drummond, 1,210, from Hakodate, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.  
 Oct. 15, Brit. str. *Breconshire*, Williams, 1,265, from London via Hongkong, General, to Adamson, Bell & Co.  
 Oct. 14, Froh. str. *Menzaleh*, Homery, 1,273, from Hongkong, Mails and General, to M. M. Co.  
 Oct. 15, Jap. str. *Shinagawa-Maru*, Kilgour, 908, from Yokkaichi, General and Tea to M. B. Co.  
 Oct. 16, Brit. str. *Malacca*, Weigell, 1,709, from Hongkong via Nagasaki, Mails and General, to P. & O. Co.  
 Oct. 16, Brit. str. *Altonower*, Murray, 1,611, from London via Shanghai, 11th, General, to Smith, Baker & Co.  
 Oct. 17, Jap. barq. *Kanagawa-Maru*, Eckstrand, 1,184, from Nagasaki, Coals, to M. B. Co.  
 Oct. 17, Jap. str. *Wakanoura-Maru*, Christensen, 1,800, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.  
 Oct. 18, Jap. barq. *Kimokuni-Maru*, MacFarlane, 960, from Nagasaki, Coals, to M. B. Co.

### DEPARTURES.

- Oct. 10, Jap. str. *Hiogo-Maru*, Thomas, 896, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. Co.  
 Oct. 11, Brit. str. *Belgic*, Davison, 2,627, for San Francisco, Mails and General, despatched by O. & O. Co.  
 Oct. 12, Jap. str. *Wakanoura-Maru*, Christensen, 1,800, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. Co.  
 Oct. 12, Brit. str. *Gaelic*, Kidley, 2,704, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by O. & O. Co.

Oct. 12, Jap. str. *Genkai-Maru*, Conner, 1,917, for Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. Co.

Oct. 12, Brit. str. *Ardantiens*, Jas. Walker, 411, for Nagasaki, Ballast, despatched by M. B. Co.

Oct. 12, Jap. str. *Sumida-Maru*, Hubenet, 896, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. Co.

Oct. 15, Froh. str. *Tanais*, Reynier, 1,735, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by M. M. Co.

Oct. 15, H.B.M. corvette, *Curacoa*, Capt. Long, 2,383, 14-guns, 2,300 H.P., 251 men, for the South.

Oct. 15, Jap. str. *Shario-Maru*, Davison, 800, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. Co.

Oct. 15, Brit. str. *Castello*, Coates, 1,485, for Kobe, General, despatched by Smith, Baker & Co.

Oct. 15, Jap. str. *Takasago-Maru*, Young, 1,230, for Hongkong via Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. Co.

Oct. 16, Am. gun-boat *Alert*, Comd. Kempff, 600 tons, 4-guns, 120 H.P., for Kobe.

Oct. 15, Brit. str. *Strathleven*, Pearson, 1588, for New York via ports, Tea and General, despatched by Smith, Baker & Co.

Oct. 15, Jap. str. *Kokonoye-Maru*, Dithlefsen, 1,133, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. Co.

### PASSENGERS.

Per Jap. str. *Takasago-Maru*, from Hongkong via Kobe:—Mr. Endicott, Mr. M. H. Robertson, Prof. W. J. Payne, and 4 Japanese in cabin; 1 European and 109 Japanese in steerage.

Per Brit. str. *Gaelic*, from San Francisco:—Mr. W. Collins and wife, Mr. L. Converse and wife, Mr. Alfred Peldrum, Mr. E. Merigalli, Mr. John S. Cox, Mr. G. H. Earle and Revd. J. McCormick in cabin. For Hongkong: Messrs. C. J. Holliday and James Williams in cabin, and 481 Chinese in steerage.

Per Brit. str. *Belgic*, for San Francisco:—Mr. K. Piotrowski, Mr. J. F. Twombly, Revd. K. Enchs, Mr. H. M. Miller and wife, Mr. G. T. Marsh, wife and infant, Messrs. G. C. Herbert, H. W. Deickmann, Jr., S. L. Newman in cabin; 4 Europeans and 513 Chinese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Shario-Maru*, from Kobe:—18 Japanese.

Per Jap. str. *Kokonoye-Maru*, from Hakodate:—3 Catholic Priests and 150 Japanese.

Per Jap. str. *Hiroshima-Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Cox, Miss and Master Cox, Messrs. Jouslain, Morehouse, Reimers, Heise, Anger and 14 Japanese in cabin; 2 Europeans, 262 Japanese, 1 Hindoo and 1 Chinese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Genkai-Maru*, for Shanghai:—Capt. Bowen, Messrs. A. M. Robertson, P. Davidson, John Pitman; and 2 Europeans. For Nagasaki: Mr. Olsen, Capt. Geo. Hay and 1 Japanese woman. For Kobe: Messrs. Ruyter, Davis, Geo. Sale, Hong Sang, E. C. Kirby, 3 Japanese; and 1 Chinese.

Per Jap. str. *Kumamoto-Maru* from Hakodate:—Mr. and Mrs. Frank in cabin; and 100 Japanese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Hiogo-Maru*, from Kobe:—30 Japanese in steerage.

Per Froh. str. *Menzaleh*, from Hongkong:—Messrs. Vivanti, Alfred Smith, and 1 Indian. From Marseilles: Messrs. J. D. Walker and servant, Guérineau, and A. Mitchell. From Naples: Mr. Inselvini. From Singapore: Mr. Wolfes.

Per Froh. str. *Tanais*, for Hongkong:—Mr. and Mrs. F. Frike and servant, Revd. J. Marin, Messrs. O. A. Reed, Van der Osten, C. O. Whitman, Y. Pasoya, Otto Reiff and Adolphe and Louis Maigre in cabin.

Per Brit. str. *Malacca*, from Hongkong via Nagasaki:—Revd. A. H. Banow, Messrs. J. Macheloe, Francis Williams, Henry Stalley, A. McLachlan; and 4 Chinese.

Per Jap. str. *Takasago-Maru*, for Hongkong via Kobe:—Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Maslen, Master Young and 1 Japanese in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Wakanoura-Maru*, from Kobe:—Messrs. W. Hillies, W. R. Dunn, O. Kelly, and Wilson in cabin; 1 European, 110 Japanese and 160 convicts in steerage.

### REPORTS.

The British steamer *Ardantiens* reports:—Left Nagasaki 5 p.m., 6th inst. Experienced S. to S.W. winds with fine weather to Van Diemens straits when the wind shifted to the N.E. blowing fresh with confused sea. 8th wind veered to the S.W. with rain and much thunder and lightning, bar. 29.80 to Rock Island hence to port N. E. winds with fine weather. Arrived 7.30 a.m. 10th, passage 86 hours.

The Japanese steamer *Takasago-Maru* reports:—Left Kobe at 7 p.m. 8th inst. Experienced strong N. wind with rain to Hienomesaki; afterwards wind veered to the S. and W. with heavy swell from N.W. accompanied with much rain, thunder and lightning to Rock Island; thence to port N.E. winds with fine weather. Arrived at 5 a.m. 10th. Passage 34 hours.

The British steamer *Gaelic* reports:—Left San Francisco at 2 p.m. on the 20th Sept. experienced moderate changeable winds across. Arrived at 6 a.m. on the 11th. Oct. Passage 19½ days.

The British steamer *Castello* reports:—Left Shanghai at 9.30 p.m. 6th inst. Experienced moderate weather with variable winds throughout. Arrived at 8 a.m. 11th inst.

The Japanese steamer *Kokonoye-Maru* reports:—Left Hakodate at 8 p.m. 9th inst. Experienced fresh S.E. wind with cloudy weather to Cape Devois; thence to Inobuoye fresh W. wind with clear weather; thence to port variable winds with cloudy weather. Arrived at 9 a.m. 12th inst. Passage 54 hours.

The Japanese steamer *Hiroshima-Maru* reports:—Left Kobe at 6 p.m. 11th. Experienced N.E. to E. winds with fine weather throughout. Arrived at 12.30 13th inst. Passage 31 hours.

The Japanese steamer *Kumamoto-Maru* reports:—Left Hakodate 4.30 p.m. 12th inst. Experienced moderate N. and N.E. winds with smooth sea and fine weather throughout. Arrived at 4 p.m. 14th, passage 47 hours.

The Japanese steamer *Hiogo-Maru* reports:—Left Kobe at 8 p.m. 12th. inst. Experienced light S.E. wind with thick hazy weather. Bar. 30.15. Thursday fresh breeze from E. passed Simenaki at 7 p.m. weather cleared. at 10 p.m. wind E.S.E., at 1.20 p.m. passed S. S. *Genkai-Maru* off Ise bay; thence to port N. & E. winds with fine weather. Arrived at 10.50 a.m. 14th. inst. Passage 39 hours.

The British steamer *Breconshire* reports:—Left Hongkong 8 a.m. 8th. inst. Experienced strong N.E. monsoon with high sea to North end of Formosa from Van Diemens to coast Japan fresh N. and N.E. with cloudy weather. Arrived at midnight, 14th, passage 6 days and 16 hours.

The French steamer *Menzaleh* reports:—Left Hongkong at 3 p.m. 8th. inst. Experienced strong N.E. monsoon with high sea on China coast; on Japan coast N. and N.E. winds with hazy weather. Arrived at 7 p.m. 14th inst. Passage six days and four hours.

The Japanese steamer *Shinagawa-Maru* reports:—Left Yokkaichi 2 p.m. 13th inst. Experienced strong S. W. winds with thick squally weather and low barometer to Cape Segami wind shifted to N.E. with rain. Arrived at 5 p.m. 15th passage 50 hours.

The British steamer *Altonower* reports:—Left Shanghai 6 a.m. 11th inst. Experienced calm and fine weather to Japan coast. To Rock Island strong S.W. and S.E. winds with thick rainy weather hence to port moderate and fine. Arrived at 2 p.m. 16th at noon. Thursday 13th in Lat. 30°52' N. Long. 125°40' E. passed a black painted boat and a fore and after of a ship's hatch probably belonging to S. S. *Ash*.

The British steamer *Malacca* reports:—Left Hongkong on the 7th inst. at 3 a.m. and arrived at Nagasaki on the 11th at 6 p.m. Could do no work as it was a holiday and the next morning it rained heavily till 9 o'clock preventing discharge of cargo and coaling. Left Nagasaki on the 12th, at 3 p.m. and reached Akashi Straits on 14th at 2 p.m. pilot boat not being there, as appointed, was taken by the pilot in the direction of a light supposed to be his boat, but which turned out to be a light on shore. Landed pilot in Mail boat at 3 a.m. hoisted up the boat and proceeded quite slow. Ebb tide was running very strong which set the ship in shore, and a fleet of junks crossing the bow, had to steady the helm to avoid a collision, when the ship took the ground, but very gently, remaining quite upright. Laid out stream and kedge anchors and engaged 4 lighters from the shore and discharged some Sugar, at same time sending to Hiogo for assistance. At 9.30 a.m. floated off and anchored, and shortly afterwards H. M. S. *Comus* came up. Signalled our thanks, and that the ship was afloat. The *Comus* passed close, under steam and sail, and hailed us saying they were glad to see we were afloat and were off to Hongkong. Took in the Sugar and proceeded at 2 p.m. Reaching Yokohama on the 15th at 10.30 p.m. Ship sustained no injury as the place where she grounded was soft shingle and sand. Her bottom was examined by a diver who pronounced no damage done.

## COMMERCIAL CIRCULAR.

YOKOHAMA, OCTOBER 19TH, 1881.

Showing Duties payable, Prices realized, Quotations, and Estimated Sales of Goods in Yokohama, for the period of 15 days from 9th. October 1881, to the 18th. October 1881, inclusive.

## IMPORTS.

The silk question is still unsettled and no transactions having taken place in the article, since our last report, there has been less gradually doing in Imports, until at this moment business has almost come to a stand still.

YARNS:—Sales reported amount to 935 Bales against 2,227 Bales for the preceding period; making a total for the year to date of 53,801 Bales—viz.: 31,371 Bales 16/24; 9,732 Bales 28/32; 1,472 Bales 38/42; 2,468 Bales doubled, and 7,768 Bales Indians.

SUGAR:—Rather weaker.

KEROSENE:—Dull market.

100 lbs. = 1 Picul.

100 Dollars Mexican = 311 Silver Boos.

	DUTY CALCULATED IN MEXICAN DOLLARS.	DUTY PAID.		ESTIMATED SALES.
		PRICES AT WHICH SALES HAVE BEEN MADE.	NOMINAL QUOTATIONS.	(From 9th. October to 18th. October.)
COTTON PIECE GOODS.				
Drills, American, 40 yds. 30 in. 14 lbs. ...	0.0241 ₱ 10 yds.	\$ ————— ₱ pc.	\$2.55 @ 3.50	— pieces.
Prints, assorted, 24 " 30 " ...	0.0241 " "	1.77½ @ 1.90	1.00 @ 3.00	800 "
Satins (cotton) ...	0.0643 " "	————— ₱ yd.	0.11½ @ 0.12	— "
Shirtings, Grey, 38½ yds. 39 in. 7 lbs. ...	0.0281 " "	————— ₱ pc.	1.40 @ 1.90	— "
" " 38½ " 39 " 8½ " ...	0.0281 " "	—————	1.75 @ 2.35	— "
" " 38½ " 45 " 9 " ...	0.0321 " "	2.29 ————	2.25 @ 2.75	13,500 "
" " 39 " 39 " 10 " ...	0.0321 " "	—————	—————	— "
T. Cloth, 32 in. 6 lbs. ...	0.0241 " "	—————	1.20 @ 1.60	— "
" " 7 " " " " " ...	0.0241 " "	1.56 ————	1.55 @ 1.75	1,000 "
Turkey Reds, 24 yds. 30 in. 1½ lb. ...	0.0241 " "	—————	—————	— "
" " 24 " 30 " 2 " @ 2½ lb. ...	0.0241 " "	1.57½ @ 1.72½	—————	400 "
" " 24 " 30 " 2½ " @ 3 lbs. ...	0.0241 " "	—————	—————	— "
Velvets (black) 35 " 22 " ...	0.0643 " "	—————	1.60 @ 2.20	— "
Victoria Lawns, 12 " 42 " ...	0.0321 " "	7.10 @ 7.40	0.60 @ 0.80	570 "
Cotton Italians, 35 " 32 " ...	0.0643 " "	————— ₱ yd.	0.10 @ 0.15	— "
COTTON YARN.				
Nos. 10 @ 12 ...	1.6077 ₱ picul.	————— ₱ pc.	27.75 ————	— bales.
" 12 ...		—————	28.50 ————	— "
" 18 ...		—————	33.50 ————	— "
" 22 @ 24 ...		—————	31.90 ————	— "
" 16 @ 24 reversed ...		—————	32.25 ————	— "
" 16 @ 24 ...		28.65 @ 33.50	—————	675 "
" 28 @ 32 ...		33.25 ————	—————	100 "
" 38 @ 42 ...		—————	39.00 @ 39.50	— "
" 32 doubled ...		—————	36.00 @ 38.60	— "
" 42 " ...		40.00 ————	—————	160 "
" 60 " ...		—————	—————	— "
Indian No. 10 ...	" "	—————	—————	— "
" " 16 ...		—————	—————	— "
" " 20 ...		—————	—————	— "
WOOLLENS AND MIXTURES.				
Alpaca, 40 yds. 32 in. ...	0.0965 ₱ 10 yds.	————— ₱ pc.	\$5.50 @ \$7.00	—
Blankets, assorted ...	1.6077 ₱ picul.	————— ₱ lb.	—————	—
" " 8 lbs. ...		—————	—————	—
" " 5½ lbs. (60 scarlet 40 green propn.) ...	0.40½ ————	—————	—————	100 pieces.
Cloth, all wool, 54 @ 64 lbs. ...	0.0965 ₱ 10 yds.	————— ₱ yd.	0.80 @ 1.50	—
" Pilots, 54 @ 64 " ...	0.3215 under 55 in. to 0.4019 exceeding 55 in. in width ₱ 10 yds.	—————	0.80 @ 0.60	—
" Presidents, 54 @ 64 " ...		—————	0.60 @ 0.70	—
" Union, 54 @ 56 " ...		—————	0.85 @ 0.60	—
Italian Cloth, 32 in. ...		—————	0.25 @ 0.40	—
Mouselines de Laine (plain & stripes), 24 yds. 21 in. ...	0.0965 ₱ 10 yds.	0.15½ @ 0.15½	0.16½ @ 0.19½	700 "
" " " (figured) ...	0.0965 " "	—————	0.25 @ 0.40	—
SUGAR.				
White, Jimpah, No. 1 ...	0.3215 ₱ picul.	\$7.40 @ 7.80	—————	8,000 piculs stock.
" Khimpah, " 2 ...		6.80 @ 7.20	—————	
" Kokpah, " 3 ...		6.20 @ 6.60	—————	
" Kungfun, " 4 ...		5.50 @ 6.10	—————	
" Gnihpah, " 5 ...		4.80 @ 5.40	—————	
Brown, Formosa, bags ...	new old	4.20 @ 4.30	—————	40,000 piculs new stock.
" Amoy ...		4.00 @ 4.15	—————	
METALS &c.				
Iron, Flat and Round ...	0.0965 ₱ picul.	————— ₱ pc.	\$2.50 @ \$2.85	Stock 245,000 cases.
" Assorted Nail-rods, (assorted) ...	0.0965 " "	—————	2.90 @ 3.10	
" Pig ...	0.0482 " "	—————	1.40 @ 1.60	
Lead, Pig ...	0.2572 " "	—————	5.80 @ 6.00	
Quicksilver ...	1.9292 " "	—————	—————	
Steel, Swedish ...	0.1980 " "	—————	3.80 @ 4.55	
Tin Plates ...	0.2251 ₱ 120 lbs.	————— ₱ box	4.80 @ 4.90	
Kerosene Oil ...	5 % ad valorem.	————— ₱ case	1.90 @ 1.94	
Raw Cotton ...	0.4019 ₱ picul.	————— ₱ pc.	10.00 @ 15.00	

## STAPLE EXPORTS.

**SILK.**—Our last report was dated 10th. instant. the dispute between the Japanese silk guild and foreign buyers still continues, there are however signs that the former are likely to yield before long; the latter remain firm, being convinced that the very existence of their trade depends on the issue. A monopoly such as is sought to be established, it must be remarked, being quite contrary to the spirit of the treaties between the Japanese and foreign governments.

Through the guild no business whatever has been done since our last; about 180 native bales have been received by foreigners direct from the country. The M. M. steamer *Tanais* hence on the 15th instant took 949 bales, about equally divided for the Continent and England, of these 528 bales were shipped by Japanese, the balance consisting of silk received direct from the country and purchases made before the present dispute commenced.

No reliable quotations can be offered, those nominally given, being as far as can be ascertained the rate ruling between the Japanese themselves. Stock increases and is now estimated at 8,000 bales, all kinds comprised.

TOTAL EXPORT FROM 1ST JULY TO DATE.										1890-91.	1891-92
London	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	995 Bales.	1,377 Bales.
France and Italy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,859 "	2,505 "
United States	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,850 "	1,397 "
										4,504 Bales.	5,179 Bales.

**TEA.**—There is no change; business more or less sympathetic with silk and imports, and we may report business as for the time suspended.

DESCRIPTION.	PRICES PER PICUL.	REMARKS.
SILK:—		
Mayebashi; 1½ @ 2 Hanks ... ..	\$ 630 to 640 per picul.	} Nominal. No business doing upon which to base reliable quotations.
"      2      "      ... ..	610 to 625 "	
"      2½    "      ... ..	590 to 600 "	
"      3 and lower ... ..	530 to 570 "	
Kakedas; Good ... ..	650 to 670 "	
Filatures; Best ... ..	740 to 750 "	
"      Good ... ..	710 to 730 "	
Hamatski; Medium ... ..	550 to — "	
Sendai and Oshiu ... ..	— to — "	
TEA:—		
Common... ..	\$10.00 and under.	} Quotations for the moment remain unaltered.
Good Common ... ..	\$12.00 to \$14.00	
Medium ... ..	\$16.00 to \$19.00	
Good Medium ... ..	\$20.00 to \$24.00	
Fine ... ..	\$25.00 to \$29.00	
Finest ... ..	\$31.00 to \$34.00	
Choice ... ..	\$36.00 and upwards.	

## EXCHANGE.

The dispute between the new Japanese guild and the foreign silk buyers still continues and business in consequence is almost at a complete stand still. Silver rose to 52½ and closes at 52. Rates are almost nominal.

ON LONDON.—Bank .....4 months' sight.....3s. 9½d.	ON HONGKONG.—Bank.....Sight.....½ % disc.
" " do. ....Sight .....3s. 8½d.	" " Private .....10 days' sight.....½ " "
" " Credits .....6 months' sight.....3s. 10d.	" SAN FRANCISCO.—Bank ..Sight.....90½
" " do. ....4 do. ....3s. 9d½.	" " Private .....30 days' sight.....91½
" PARIS.—Bank. ....Sight .....4.72	" NEW YORK.—Bank .....Sight.....90½
" " Credits .....6 months' sight.....4.87	" " Private .....30 days' sight .....91½
" SHANGHAI.—Bank .....Sight.....73	
" " Private .....10 days' sight .....73½	

Paper currency, 172 per \$100.



# THE JAPAN GAZETTE,

A FORTNIGHTLY SUMMARY OF THE

POLITICAL, COMMERCIAL, LITERARY, AND SOCIAL EVENTS OF JAPAN.

VOL. XXVIII. No. 9.

YOKOHAMA, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1891.

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## BIRTHS.

On the 20th October, the wife of JULIUS MANNICH, of a son.

At Yokohama, on the 30th Oct., the wife of L. CAMERON, Oriental Bank, of a daughter.

On the 7th September, at Cape Breton, Mrs. WARD, wife of FREDERICK WARD, Superintendent French Atlantic Cable Company (late Japanese Government Telegraphs), of a son.

## DEATH.

At Tokio, on Sunday, Nov. 6th, of Meningitis, RICHARD HOLMES, son of Rev. GEORGE WILLIAM and ANNA HOLMES KNOX, aged seven months and ten days.

## Summary.

OUR last issue was dated October 20th. for transmission by the P. & O. S. S. *Malacca*. The following mails have since been received.

P. M. S. *City of Peking*, London Sept. 11 ..... arrived Oct. 24  
O. & O. S. *Oceanic*, San Francisco Oct. 8 ..... " Oct. 29  
M. M. S. *Tanais*, Marseilles, Sept. 18 ..... " Nov. 3  
O. & O. *Gaelic*, Hong Kong with L'don mail, Sept. 24 ..... " Nov. 5

And the following have been despatched:—

P. & O. S. *Malacca*, London ..... Oct. 20  
P. M. S. *City of Peking*, San Francisco ..... Oct. 25  
M. M. S. *Volga*, Marseilles ..... Oct. 29  
P. & O. S. *Sunda*, London ..... Nov. 3

THE 3rd. inst. being the birth day of His Imperial Majesty the Mikado the day was observed as a general holiday. The ships in harbour were gaily dressed and on shore the national flag of Japan was everywhere visible. At Tokio there was a grand review of troops in the morning at which His Majesty was presented and in the evening there was an assembly at the residence of the foreign minister at which many foreigners were present.

THE silk difficulty is still unsettled, and remains in much the same condition as when we last wrote. The native papers continue to publish reports of the foreign association being anxious to come to a compromise, which, it is needless to say, are entirely without foundation, the "wish being father to the thought." On the principle of the weakest going to the wall the Niadzukari-sho should surrender sooner or later; it is only a question of time, and signs are not wanting that they have not a sufficient quantity of powder and shot to carry on the war much longer.

THE much talked of, long expected flying squadron has come and gone. The ships of which it is composed entered this port on the 21st. ultimo under the usual salutes. The Japanese officials appointed to receive the young princes had been anxiously looking out for them but were nevertheless somewhat taken by surprise. As a natural consequence they were rather behind in their preparations and the princes did not land officially until the 24th. October, when they came ashore so quietly that very few, if any, of the foreign community had an opportunity of being present to "welcome the coming guests." They reached the port admiral's office about 10.30 a.m. on the day above named, and at once proceeded by special train to Tokio where a series of festivities were held in their honour, including a grand ball at the Koku Daigaku on the 27th. ult. at which a large number of foreigners were present, and of which a full report will be found in another column. Their Royal Highnesses returned to Yokohama early on the morning of the 29th. ultimo and reported

themselves on board the *Bacchante*. His Imperial Majesty the Mikado visited the flying squadron on the 31st. October and spent some time with the princes, returning to the capital in the afternoon. The squadron left Yokohama on the 1st. instant.

ROYAL visits are not an everyday occurrence in this part of the world and perhaps it is well that they are not as they are rather costly luxuries. Numerous festivities were planned only to be nipped in the bud in consequence of the squadron leaving much sooner than was anticipated. The regatta, however, which had been postponed from time to time, took place during their stay and was a complete success.

SOME sweeping changes in the Japanese cabinet have been announced. Many officials have mounted one or two rungs of the ladder, others have sent in their "resignations," and a new department of state, the *sanji-in*, has been established.

WHATEVER doubts may have existed concerning the correct interpretation of the recent imperial decree are now set at rest. An "official utterance" has been published by the native press that the nine years notice is not to be lessened by a single day. Those therefore who are anxious for the establishment of a Japanese parliament have no alternative but to exercise that virtue which is only too often its own reward—patience.

THE native papers have not fared well during the past fortnight. Two or three of them have been suspended and cases are still pending against several others in the Tokio Joto Saibansho. We were at a loss to guess the reason of such high-handed measures at first, but the mystery is now cleared up. The luckless prints have had rather too much to say about General Kuroda in connection with the Kaitakushi affair; and that official has taken steps to bring the offenders to a sense of their wickedness.

THE Portuguese residents are about the smallest section of the foreign community but they pull well together and have recently shown one or two instances of the truth of the axiom "Union is strength." They are able to support a well conducted little newspaper amongst themselves which reflects great credit on its energetic conductor. The 31st. ultimo being the forty-third anniversary of the birth of their sovereign Don Luiz I. they observed the occasion with due honour. A banquet was given at the Portuguese consulate at noon under the presidency of Mr. de Baviera, acting consul for Portugal, at which upwards of thirty guests assembled. In the evening a new Portuguese club was inaugurated which commences its career under very favourable auspices and the committee are certainly to be congratulated on their success in the face of so many difficulties.

## Leading Articles.

### THE "MAI NICHU SHINBUN" IN TROUBLE.

WE have been much surprised at the receipt of a circular notice from the *Mai Nichi Shinbun* announcing that it was unexpectedly suspended at 10 P.M. last night, and that all further publication of its issues of yesterday and the day before (18th. and 19th. instant) had been strictly prohibited.

We have carefully looked through the copies on our office file and can find nothing that ought to have excited the wrath of a paternal, but perhaps rather too sensitive, government except, it may be, a few lines of comment on the recent Imperial Decree. The article is rather to prolix for translation *in extenso* but its chief points seem to be:—

1.—The edict should be properly understood and pondered over.

2.—The time fixed for the establishment of a representative assembly (23rd. year of Meiji) should not be interpreted too literally: it should be taken to mean, *not* that the wished for parliament will be convened nine years hence, but that it may be summoned some time or other during the next nine years—that no greater delay than nine years will be incurred.

3.—Those who desire to prove themselves faithful and loyal subjects should attend to the voice of Imperial instruction. They should see that government officials perform their duty by drawing up a plan for constitutional reform and impress upon them that the nation is prepared to receive a legislative assembly in a less space of time than that named, and urge them to convene one.

4.—If officials draw up a new constitution the people must let them know the direction of public opinion. If this is not done such new constitution will be imperfect, and both ministers and people will be responsible for its defects.

5.—A national assembly is not a machine for the government but for the people, and if the latter hold themselves aloof instead of boldly coming forward and expressing their wishes they will not discharge the duty they owe both to their sovereign and their country.

This is the only item in either of the above issues of the *Mai Nichi Shinbun* which is at all likely to have been instrumental in calling down the imperial wrath on its devoted head. Being Englishmen, we cannot be expected either to understand or appreciate the advantages of that peculiar form of tyranny commonly called the censorship of the press. But if the foregoing may be taken as a sample of the manner in which it is worked all we can say is, that it is about the most suicidal policy that could be possibly pursued. Here is the ruler of a country just emerging from the darkness of a long night of ignorance and superstition, eager to embrace the advantages of civilization and progress. He puts forth an edict in which he almost invites public opinion to express itself; and then in the face of it, the very first paper that ventures to comment in the mildest terms on the contents of the proclamation is effectually silenced.

If no confidence or expression of opinion is to be interchanged between the governing and the governed, the rulers and the ruled, there can be very little hope of any permanent happiness or prosperity for the nation.

We have already, more than once expressed our opinions very freely on this subject and therefore we need say little or nothing more. Whether the press of Japan is free or burked is a matter that does not affect us a single *iota*. As residents in the country however, we naturally take some interest in the welfare and progress of its people. We would therefore remind the "powers that be" that welfare and progress cannot well exist apart from civil and political liberty, and that such liberty is incompatible with a licensed press that dare not speak its own words. Finally, as we said only a short time since, public opinion *can not* be controlled; it *will* and *must* assert itself. It therefore only remains for the government of Japan to choose whether it shall do so through a corrupt, or an incorrupt source; by fair means or by foul, and the sooner such choice is made the better it will be for all concerned.—Oct. 19.

### THE ACTING CONSUL AND MR. WHITTALL.

THE correspondence between Mr. EDWARD WHITTALL and H.B.M. *chargé d'affaires*, published in other columns of this issue, will explain itself. With the merits of the proceedings against Mr. WHITTALL, the decision, the order in council, and the legality or otherwise of Englishmen being compelled to submit to the humiliation of taking out a license to live in the open ports of China and Japan, we know nothing and care less. This community, in common with others in China, is very fond of declaiming about the illegality of the "poll tax," and the indefensible reduction, without the special sanction of parliament, of the number of jurymen from twelve to seven or five or three as the case may be; but when a test case arises, when by united action and liberal though not extravagant individual contributions, these vexed questions might be for ever set at rest by appeal to the highest legal authorities of our own country, those who were loudest in complaint, most independent in tone, most clamorous about "why don't they do it," suddenly sink into silence; nay, not infrequently change their minds and declare that "the poll tax is an easy let off" for home taxation; and that a jury of five is a matter of wise expediency. Of such poltroons we have had more than enough experience, and prefer to fight our battles single-handed; nor can we feel any very earnest sympathy for one more courageous than the others who defends an action in this court, which is really a court of first instance, without an unflinching resolution to carry the matter further if by any possibility it can be taken to a higher court of appeal. Had Mr. WHITTALL adopted this course he would have conferred a great favour on all, and he would have received from a few earnest men ample encouragement and substantial assistance far in excess of his expectations. For reasons of his own, however, he preferred to let the matter rest; and all that the public have to decide upon is, whether the acting consul treated Mr. WHITTALL with the courtesy and consideration due from an official in Mr. DOHMEN's position to a resident in Mr. WHITTALL's.

Mr. WHITTALL is well known in Japan. For some years managing partner of the eminent firm of JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., and lately established in business under his own name, Mr. EDWARD WHITTALL is better known and esteemed than it is possible

for any consular officer to be, except some few of those who, attached to the service in the early years of our intercourse with Japan have remained in it ever since and endeared themselves to residents by their courtesy and the manner in which they have properly softened the performance of their duties by due regard for the amenities of social life in a place where every resident is personally known to the others. No consular officer, however zealous, could have imagined that Mr. WHITTALL deliberately intended to break the law, or even to question its validity. In past years he had duly registered himself in accordance with the notice annually published, as purely indifferent to the five-dollar fee as the majority of us, and doubtless as regardless of the engraved license which declares him to be a British subject, and which usually finds its fitting receptacle in the nearest waste paper basket. Mr. DOHMEN, in common with those who have the pleasure of friendly personal acquaintance with Mr. WHITTALL of many years standing, must have been well aware of these facts. He knew that Mr. WHITTALL had been absent for several months; that his neglect to perform the solemn rite of registration was due to a doubt as to whether such registration was necessary before next January; that reference had been made unofficially to Mr. ROBERTSON, formerly consul in Yokohama and now acting judge of the court for Japan. Taking Mr. WHITTALL's letters as an authority we find Mr. DOHMEN, in reply to Mr. WHITTALL's question of whether "Mr. ROBERTSON had spoken to him about registering," replying no; adding, in words to this effect, "If you do not register at once I will send you a summons to-morrow;" a threat which was literally carried out. The annoyance of Mr. WHITTALL upon receipt of the summons is natural; for it is clear a few words of preliminary explanation by Mr. DOHMEN would have obviated the necessity for the arbitrary proceeding of which complaint is made. It is true Mr. KENNEDY does not hold this view. He says, "Any consul is perfectly justified in causing a summons to be served without previous warning upon any defaulter who is supposed to know the law." In this case Mr. WHITTALL had expressed a doubt as to his liability, and had taken measures to satisfy himself on the point; but Mr. DOHMEN, by at once instituting legal proceedings, afforded him no opportunity to decide upon the course he was bound to undertake. Mr. KENNEDY's ruling on this subject is strangely at variance with the *General Instructions for British Consuls*, which provide, among other things, that "The consul will give his best advice and assistance, when called upon, to her Majesty's trading subjects, quieting their differences, promoting peace, harmony, and good will amongst them &c., &c." Had Mr. DOHMEN told Mr. WHITTALL that no further delay could be permitted; that the law required him to register, and that, failing to do so within a day or two, he, as the executive officer, would be obliged to set the law in motion, Mr. WHITTALL would have had no cause whatever for complaint. It is the manner not the matter of Mr. DOHMEN's action; we know nothing of the reasons which animated him, any more than we understood the reasons which induced him to circulate a "solemn declaration" among masters of merchant steamers, calling upon each of them to individually deny that he was the author of an anonymous letter commenting upon a matter of public interest, addressed to and published in a local newspaper; but we have no

doubt whatever that a little ordinary courtesy on his part in this instance would have saved him from another exposure of his unpopularity as an acting British consular official.

Transactions of this character are of public interest. For years we have been accustomed to regard the consul as our friend and adviser in all cases of doubt and difficulty; and many of us have gladly deferred to his judgment in matters when our own opinions have been much opposed to it. Until Mr. DOMMEN was appointed to the acting vacancy the consul, as an official, was scarcely known: his urbanity and untiring patience were proverbial, and so fully appreciated that every effort was made to avoid unduly trespassing upon either. To no people in the world is asserted officialdom so offensive and intolerable as to Englishmen; but this is a fact Mr. DOMMEN's antecedents effectually prevent him from realising, though it was thoroughly understood and acted up to by his predecessors. Now things are changed. The acting consul is with us, but not of us; and it is most desirable, in the interests of peace and quietude, that he should be permitted to hold undisturbed the position of isolated and brief authority to which he aspires.—Oct. 22.

#### THE LATEST FINANCIAL STATEMENT

THE *Japan Mail* of 15th. instant, with guileless freshness, devoted four pages of notes to comments upon the recently issued financial statement for 1881-82, attempting to elucidate that which no man, however experienced he may be in figures and their notation, can possibly understand. The persistence with which the finance minister adheres to surpluses and reserve funds, to reduction of the volume of paper and other similar financial miracles which are practically contradicted by the decline in purchasing power of government currency, and when the errors under which he labours have been pointed out in the most convincing manner, is worthy of a better cause. In the light of common knowledge the statement gravely put forward resolves itself into an untenable assertion of an impossible position. The disturbance of values consequent upon currency depreciation has reduced the purchasing power of paper yen by forty per cent.; this decline affects the revenue to the same extent; and assuming that not one cent of specie is required to leave the country, the working power of yen 68,573,995, the sum of the estimated income of this year, is only 41,150,000 yen, or ten millions less than the reduced expenditure of 1877, a period when paper currency was, so far as prices were concerned, close upon par.

These are stern facts that no one can dispute upon any real ground. Year by year the financial statements show reduction in the volume of paper; and this year the statement gravely propounds many startling propositions one of which is that whereas the actual ascertained expenditure for the financial year 1875-76 was yen 69,203,242 of paper currency, then actually ruling at a premium on silver, the net issue of currency being yen 66,462,396 (i. e. yen 94,803,812—reserve fund yen 28,341,416), a similar sum is relied upon to do duty when the currency representing it, diminished to yen 50,671,343 (i. e. yen 106,061,439—reserve fund yen 55,390,096), has lost 40 per cent. of its purchasing power!

These points have been discussed *ad nauseum*, the conclusion being that the annual finance statements, like the reports of the

national banks, are elaborately prepared documents to serve a given purpose; but wholly untrustworthy, and therefore utterly useless, as expositors of the financial status of this country. That the *Japan Mail* should have so completely changed its tone "in this connection" within the short period of three years is, however, remarkable. It now declares what the *Japan Gazette* asserted in March 1879, namely:—

The nation has no thorough confidence in the statements put forward by the treasury. That estimates and results should be in exact equilibrium is theoretically a very desirable state of affairs, but practically such a balance is seldom attainable. Therefore the finance minister must not be surprised to find that suspicious folk are apt to credit him with the ingenuity of manipulating the scales, or in other words, throwing in a few bundles of pictured paper on the revenue side when the expenditure threatens to deflect the beam.

In short, if the plain truth were told, it would probably be found that the general public of Japan is disposed to be incontinently merry over these carefully compiled budgets. Why is it, men not unnaturally ask one another, why is it that we are told nothing about the amount of paper money struck off every year?

Further, to complete our analysis, if the officers of the Japanese treasury do not recognize the incredulity of their countrymen, they must be singularly obtuse. Reviewing the general question of currency we concluded a short article with these emphatic words, written nearly three years ago:—

No statement showing mere trifling deficiencies will be accepted without a thorough examination into the quantity of currency actually issued; and, in fact, a recall of the present unnumbered notes and the substitution of others, for the purpose of accurately ascertaining the state liability, are necessary measures, and no general credence can be given to statements founded upon suppositions grounds until this crucial test has been applied to their claims upon the confidence of the people. (*Japan Gazette*, Nov. 30, 1878.)

The people will continue to believe, and it is quite natural that they should do so, that the finance minister is not certain as to his figures. The notes are unnumbered; the records are reported to have been lost or destroyed; and there is the damaging denial, made by his excellency Okuma, of the assertions of Messrs. Shibusawa and Inouye Kaworu, who together estimated the national liability for foreign and internal debt, inclusive of paper money, at 120,000,000 yen, a sum certainly not then over-stated. His excellency will be aware that all this is matter of public belief: and if it be also a fact that no person will accept an account, or national financial statement, without substantial proof, he cannot fail to understand that the impression of over-issue is not likely to be removed by anything short of a public investigation into the circulation, and the recall of the present objectionable government note. (*Japan Gazette*, March 9th., 1879).

This journal stood alone in its financial policy when currency depreciation first attracted attention. Let our contemporary search its own files of 1877-79, those of the other Yokohama journals, and the *Tokio Times*, then inspired directly by the finance minister, and say which of the foreign journals correctly realised the position and warned all

of the dangers ahead. All sorts of unworthy motives were attributed to us: the *Gazette* was insulting the government: assisting speculators to depress the currency; arguing upon grounds declared, in the elegant phraseology of a contemporary, to be "all fudge." Confident of the soundness of the principles upon which we relied we were content to await the developments of time, for:—

"The attacks made by this journal upon the cruel financial policy of Japan are more than justified, for such foreign trade as there is is seriously embarrassed by the depreciation of an utterly inconvertible currency, which will most surely bring upon the nation misery and suffering far greater than it is in our power to conceive. There is one consolation, and that is, that one honest voice has been raised against the insensate continuance of the fiscal system of this country."

This passage was written January 18, 1879, when paper was quoted 122½. Two and one-half years later, and the nominal value of the currency is 175; its real value no one knows. Fresh issues have been made in the interval but disguised, and efforts are now made to amuse the people with statements which are worthless in every respect, and when examined by competent men provoke nothing but derision and disbelief. Strong language no doubt—pestilent journalism perhaps,—but think of the provocation and be silent all you that are subsidized to defend the rotten cause.—Oct. 22.

#### THE SILK DIFFICULTY.

THE ostensible object of the promoters of the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho as explained to foreign merchants in the prospectus first distributed was the formation of a central establishment for the classification and assortment of silk in order that the irregularities attendant upon the present method of sale might be remedied and general improvement effected in the silk trade. When the association found foreign merchants disinclined to submit to conditions which meant complete reversal of the only safe system under which silk business in Japan could be conducted, the members, relying upon the want of union among foreigners, and satisfied that the latter would eventually yield upon finding the association determined to enforce its regulations, assumed a front of open hostility and dictation which led, for the first time in our local annals, to the formation of a counter-opposition, the committee of which had resort to an appeal to the producers whose interests were involved in the action of the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho, which is an association of brokers only. Thereupon the brokers showed their hand a little more plainly in their reply to the foreign circular. The plea urged to the foreigner of improvement in the Japanese method of transacting business was no longer trusted and in their appeal the brokers relied upon alleged bad practices of foreign buyers to justify their own action with producers. The charges proffered against foreigners are now familiar to all. The majority of them are distinctly untrue; and of the remainder which have any foundation it must be admitted that if they are abuses the Japanese seller is equally culpable with the foreign buyer: the action of both parties being voluntary, and not, as the brokers would lead their countrymen to believe, forced upon the Japanese by the arbitrary compulsion of the foreigner. To strengthen these

libels upon foreigners the brokers raised a party cry of "Restoration of commercial right," and during the last six weeks there has been an entire suspension of the most important branch of foreign trade with Japan.

That such a condition of affairs can hold for any length of time seems impossible. On the side of the Japanese association there are visible indications of weakness, and, as they are sellers anxious to dispose of their goods attempting to dictate to buyers who are by no means anxious to purchase, the condition of the home markets being such as to render the temporary suspension of business a subject for congratulation, it is reasonable to suppose the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho is disposed to come to an arrangement which could have been effected without difficulty before the formation of an association to enforce rules which are in themselves impracticable.

The argument set up by the native silk brokers of deprivation of commercial rights, is based upon an assertion that while Japanese purchasers of imports are obliged to pay before delivery can be had, foreign merchants arbitrarily insist upon silk being delivered to them for inspection and approval before payment is made for the quantity selected. There would be sufficient ground for such complaint if the facts were as they are stated; but when these facts are examined the ground is removed. Any assumed similarity between the two transactions is clearly erroneous. The sale of yarn and shirting is conducted upon musters of well known marks and qualities, the goods in bulk having, previous to receipt by the foreign seller in Japan, undergone the very process of inspection and packing by the shipper in Manchester to which the Japanese merchant declines to submit to with regard to his silk. Yarn and shirting are invariably bought in Manchester through competent agents, in reality inspectors in the same sense that foreign merchants are inspectors in the silk trade here. The agent does not buy so many bales of yarn or shirting ready packed for shipment direct from the manufacturer; orders instead such quantity as he requires to be sent to his godowns for inspection. Yarn is examined almost quite as closely as silk, and shirtings are measured, inspected, and weighed, piece by piece where necessary. Usage, and the reputation of manufacturers, have of course much modified the labour, and much of the process of inspection has become more or less nominal, but the right of thorough inspection remains. Upon completion of this process the agent selects that portion he thinks suitable for his principal, and rejects the remainder. The selected portion is then weighed and packed by the agent, musters being taken at hazard from any one bale or bales to be forwarded to the agent's principal as an exact representative of the bulk. The purchase thus settled, the buyer has the option of payment thirty or sixty days afterwards; or of present payment subject to a discount of 1 or 1½ per cent. for cash. The experience of Japanese buyers of imports may with safety be invoked to say if, when any inequality between sample and bulk is shown, they have not had the option of rescinding the contract or of such rebate in price as the parties mutually agreed upon; and furthermore, that when such inequalities have been discovered they have been found due to mildew or other effects arising from packing in damp weather, or other similar causes, and not to any radical defect in the goods themselves, or

any deception between the sample and the bulk. Contrast the position of the producers of yarn and shirting in England with the position of the producers of silk in Japan. The latter have been accustomed to enter into preliminary arrangements with foreign agents for the sale to the latter of a certain quantity of silk on an agreed basis of price. The silk is then sent into the purchasers' godowns for inspection which is invariably performed with the utmost expedition; but the quality of silk sent in in bulk is as a rule so inferior in value to the musters upon which the contract has been made that delays are frequently occasioned by the impossibility of coming to terms with the seller upon a new basis. Inspection concluded, the selected portion is weighed and payment is made at once at the price agreed upon, without any deduction whatsoever.

We think this explanation, superfluous to the foreign reader, should go far to show that one of the principal reasons urged by Japanese silk dealers against the present system of sale, is purely sentimental; and that between their purchase of yarn from, and sale of silk to, foreign merchants, there is no analogy; they are entirely different transactions in which the Japanese dealer holds a position infinitely superior to his foreign prototype, the manufacturer in Manchester.

Disputes such as those of the present moment would never have occurred if Japanese dealers were in the habit of offering proper musters of the silk they have for sale; but whether the producer in the interior, or the broker in Yokohama, is responsible for the fact that false musters have always been shown to the foreign buyer is a question that cannot be discussed here, for we have the assertion of the chairman of the Foreign Silk Association to rely upon, and he distinctly said, at one of the meetings lately held, that he had pointed out to the members of the Rengo that if honest and true musters had been usually shown no difficulties could possibly have arisen: and that, in reply from the native broker, he was told that the brokers in Yokohama dare not present honest musters; that the musters were prepared in the country to represent the different parcels, and that if they insisted upon showing actual musters of the silk they held the owners of it would take the consignments from them and pass them on to other brokers less scrupulous.

The other complaint made of having to pay money to watchmen in foreigners' godowns is an absurdity, because, as just said, no deduction whatsoever is made by the principal on payment for silk. If any payment is made by the broker to the watchmen in foreign godowns it must be made after the money has been received from the purchaser, and without the latter's knowledge or connivance.

The truth is, that of all the accusations against foreigners, the complaints and grievances, not one really exists in fact; and it surely, therefore, cannot be difficult, if personal animosity be put on one side, and the mistaken pride which prevents mutual concessions be waived, to come to some arrangement which shall be mutually beneficial to all parties, and form a basis for all future operations. Foreigners will not believe, in spite of the letters and addresses from the interior to the Rengo, that this silk combination has the support of the body of producers, or that it is less objectionable to the latter than it is to foreigners themselves. Had it not been for the appeal made by foreign merchants to the

producers, it is certain the latter would never have been consulted in any way; on the contrary, they would have been compelled to bring their silk to the Rengo and to accept such terms as the Rengo saw fit to offer. The assertion of the Rengo that the advantage of the producer was the primary motive of their action is openly distrusted; and strong evidence that this distrust is not confined to individual foreigners or Japanese is shown by the tardiness with which the Rengo had recourse to its influence among certain districts to obtain signatures to letters of approval. The producer is entirely ignorant of the real condition of affairs, or he would repudiate spontaneously, as absurd and false, the accusations preferred by brokers who have held amicable relations for twenty years with the foreign merchants they now openly defame. It is impossible the people of Japan can understand the danger of entrusting the whole trade of the empire to a combination which sought, in the first instance, to coerce producer and seller alike; and nothing can convince the foreigner that such a monopoly as the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho is an institution approved and supported by the people. Under such conditions, therefore, we may premise that foreigners, as a preliminary to any arrangement, would exercise the unquestionable right, a right as beneficial to the Japanese people as to themselves, of insisting upon free trade intercourse; and that the position assumed by the Rengo cannot be recognized. If this point were ceded there should be no difficulty in arriving at an agreement; and to assist in the attainment of so desirable an object we put forward the following

#### BASES OF AN AGREEMENT.

- 1.—Every person in Japan desirous of transacting business with foreigners in the treaty ports shall be free to make his own conditions of sale and purchase without the interference of any association or combination whatsoever.
- 2.—If any Japanese seller distrusts any foreign buyer, or has any other reason for his action, he shall be at liberty to make such conditions of sale, inspection, and terms of payment as may seem to him necessary, any usage to the contrary notwithstanding.
- 3.—When the Japanese seller has no reason to distrust the foreign purchaser he shall have perfect liberty to enter into a contract for the sale of silk to the latter upon such terms as he may see fit; and to send silk into foreign godowns for inspection subject to such conditions as will effectually obviate any ground for complaint.
- 4.—To ensure the better observance of the conditions of sale verbally arranged, a contract shall be made out and signed before the transaction it refers to is ratified.
- 5.—The contract shall be in effect as follows, always subject to such additions or modifications as may be mutually agreed upon.

#### FORM OF CONTRACT.

- We A B agree to purchase from C D—  
bales of silk of—denomination and—  
quality, upon the conditions following:—
- 1.—The said—bales shall be sent in to the godown of the said A B for inspection.
  - 2.—Upon the delivery, or in course of such delivery into godown, of the silk for inspection, the said A B shall advance to the said C D, if so required to do,—per cent. of the value of the quantity so delivered, free of all interest or other charges thereon.



3.—From the receipt of the said silk by A B it shall be held covered by insurance against loss by fire at the expense of the said A B but for the benefit of the said C D, until such time as the inspection is concluded and payment made by the said A B to the said C D

4.—Inspection to be completed within—days, weather permitting: or the process of inspection shall not extend beyond one day for each—bales.

5.—The quantity selected for purchase shall be weighed to the satisfaction of the parties mutually concerned: and the net weight shall be ascertained by deducting from the gross weight the actual weight of the bags or other covering packages in which the silk is packed, such tare to be mutually agreed upon previous to packing the silk for weighing.

6.—That portion of the silk which is found on inspection to be of different quality or denomination to that contracted for shall be returned to the said C D, who thereupon shall refund to the said A B the due proportion of the advance made upon it; or such advance may be applied to liquidate the balance of purchase money due upon the quantity purchased. Pending the refund of advances the rejected silk shall remain under lien to A B

The conditions of this contract note, written in the English and Japanese languages, are mutually agreed upon this—day of —by us.

(Signed) A B  
C D

Every person who has goods to dispose of is entitled to make whatever conditions of sale he thinks best for his own interest; and it is obvious that under conditions of a character similar to those here drafted the "commercial rights," of the deprivation of which so many complaints have been made, would be amply restored; and we are not without hope that the good sense of both parties will lead to an arrangement which offers an honourable and advantageous settlement of this deplorable difficulty.—Oct. 25.

#### THE FUTURE OF THE POST OFFICE

**D**URING the past few months the reputation of the Imperial Post Office for exactitude and punctuality has been assailed by complaints more or less grave; but we endeavoured to avoid public remonstrance in the belief that increasing business in the foreign branch of the service, and the limited staff competent to conduct it, were the causes of irregularities which would be spontaneously corrected; nor were we wrong in this supposition, for several causes of complaint have been removed.

Under other circumstances than those which have now arisen, there would be no necessity for allusion to the magnitude of the interests confided to the post office, nor the importance of that institution as a branch or sub-department of the government, the large appropriation annually made to it out of the national revenue, nor the officials who control its destinies; but rumours are afloat which excite serious apprehensions for the future, and cause us to reflect upon the nature of the trust which has been confided, by conventions entered into by the United States, French, and British governments, to the government of Japan.

The *Mai Nichi* and other papers announce that there is a strong probability of the present postmaster-general, Mr. MAYESIMA, being superseded in the office he fills so well; and we hear to-day that Mr. NOMURA YASUSHI, late governor of Kanagawa, has been appointed to succeed him. No charge, so far as we can ascertain, is preferred against Mr. MAYESIMA; and his removal, should it

take place, will no doubt be consequent entirely upon political motives we cannot appreciate, but which in no way reflect upon the ability, integrity, or industry of a gentleman who is perhaps better known to foreigners by repute than any other executive officer of the government. But as the event is one which has direct bearing upon foreign interests, we feel justified in dealing, however imperfectly, with a rumour of such serious import.

The present postmaster-general was nominated in 1870; understanding the importance of the work he had to perform, and being endowed with energy, industry, decision, and business qualifications of a high order, he successfully, step by step, gained a thorough knowledge of the details of his department, and presented it at last to the nation as a completed establishment which had secured the confidence of foreign powers eminently jealous of their correspondence, and one which, continued on a proper basis, would add to the credit of the nation.

The importance of the duties for which Mr. MAYESIMA is responsible must be estimated by the fact that there were, at the close of last year, 8,887 offices, agencies, and other receptacles for mail matter; 8,646 employees; a revenue of yen 1,173,691, and an expenditure of yen 1,091,900, employed in the transmission of nearly 69,000,000 articles. Of the proportion of foreign mail matter it is difficult to speak, as the next report will be the first to deal with this point in a definitive manner; but knowing the value of foreign trade we may safely say that upon the accurate (by this term we mean *strictly* accurate) performance of the business of the post office foreign interests of the value of one hundred million dollars annually depend.

With these facts before them the foreign community regard with considerable apprehension the possible removal of an official in whom they have well-grounded confidence; and the appointment of another who, however able he may be, cannot by any possibility possess the technical special knowledge essential to the performance of the duties of the office; nor can that knowledge be acquired in weeks or months, seeing that years of steady application are indispensable for the purpose. The foreign staff has been so reduced that in the event of illness, or other contingencies the occurrence of which cannot be ignored, the whole burden of foreign postal communication might be suddenly thrown upon one or two junior foreign officers and a Japanese staff, all of whom, deprived of a competent chief, would soon become demoralised; and serious interruption to business would ensue.

It may be convenient to ignore for the time being, or to regard as remote and improbable, the risks attendant upon such a change as that rumoured; but when the circumstances are considered; the difficult and onerous nature of the work to be performed is realised; the fatal results of delay estimated at their true value; and the incompetence of any other person, post office officials included, to supersede Mr. MAYESIMA is taken into account, the reason for this article becomes apparent.

We therefore respectfully venture to suggest to the government that should there be any truth in the reported supercession of Mr. MAYESIMA, the decision should be reconsidered. Public confidence in the present postmaster-general has not been gained in a day. His method of conducting business has been closely scrutinised, and foreigners, who naturally and justifiably are intimately

concerned in this question, which is one materially affecting their property, are now satisfied of Mr. MAYESIMA's competency, and regard his removal with regret and alarm.

Every just and impartial man, native or foreign, who reads these lines will be glad of an opportunity to testify his respect for an official whose claim to it rests upon the solid foundation of the known faithful discharge of public duties requiring more than average ability to perform. The maintenance of Mr. MAYESIMA in the office he fills so well, would be a graceful concession to widely-felt public opinion; while the state will still further benefit by the services of one of its most conscientious officers. On the other hand, the rumoured change will certainly create intense dissatisfaction; and lead to endless trouble and discussion.—Oct. 29.

#### Miscellaneous Articles.

##### THE ENGLISH PRESS AND SIR EDWARD REED'S JAPAN.

**S**IR EDWARD REED'S history of Japan, and account of his own sojourn here is now, we are informed, passing rapidly through its second edition. Its publication seems to have been of sufficient importance to merit frequent reference, and in the present article we purpose summarising the reviews of the work of over thirty London and provincial journals, with the object of enabling our readers to judge for themselves of the reception it met with from the press as representatives of public opinion in Great Britain. Sir EDWARD REED, it will be remembered, held some very decided views on past and present English policy in Japan, and on some of the transactions which were the outcome of that policy. In criticising his work we have ourselves dissented very strongly from some of his conclusions, and, so far, our task is done; in the following article, therefore, we shall abstain from obtruding our own views, but shall endeavour faithfully to summarise other reviews, without regard to their tone, or to the attitude which they assume towards the author or his book. The *Edinburgh* and *Quarterly* review we omit; the article in the first, which has only just appeared, is trashy and unworthy; while that in the second was fully reprinted by us at the time of its publication.

The *Times* says the author has, with great industry, accumulated a congeries of materials, though want of time and other causes have prevented him from working them into a harmonious whole. It thinks that he was travelling too much *en fete* to obtain much insight into the habits of humble life. His indignation at the cruelty of the vengeance at Kagoshima is not unjustified.

"Sir E. REED disclaims any intention of treating of the political and international prospects of Japan, as being a subject of too great delicacy. It is hard to see where the delicacy lies, except in so far as the author might encounter the risks and responsibilities of prophecy. We are glad he has not been so reticent on the views of the Japanese themselves. Sir E. REED's testimony on this subject is valuable, for he evidently identified himself during his stay so thoroughly with the Japanese and their sympathies that we may regard him as a complete exponent of the Japanese point of view."

It thinks two or three of the complaints made against our diplomacy are not without foundation, but we must not forget that we and the rest of Europe have a standing grievance in the policy of exclusion which is maintained except where the treaty infringes it; it is also a question whether it would not be impossible to make the case of Japan an exception to the useful rule that extra-territoriality and consular jurisdiction are desirable wherever Christianity is not the established religion.

"Sir E. REED's book will do good service in laying the case [of Japan] before Englishmen, and we may fairly hope that the mutual cordialities and courtesies which attended his visit will have mitigated in some degree the bitterness with which Englishmen seem to be regarded by the Japanese."

The *Daily Telegraph* in a highly eulogistic review, which displays its usual *crass* ignorance of far eastern affairs, refers to the island of Saghalien as being still in possession of both the Russians and Japanese. There is ample evidence it says, in the contents of the work that the author is a scrupulous recorder of facts, whilst he exercises a graphic pen in portraying the habits and manners of a people who, if not the "most primitive" decidedly hold a front place in the category of the highly interesting races into whose social life Europeans are now obtaining a clearer insight.

"The numerous and rare sources of information placed at the disposal of Sir EDWARD REED, have ample justice done them in this able and engaging work, the maps and illustrations of which serve an important purpose in bringing clearer to the mind of the reader much that is naturally difficult by mere word explanation."

The *World* thinks the work is much more than a readable book of travels. It is a concise and lucid history of the people and dynasty, of the religion and traditions, of the art and literature of the country, supplemented by a record of a three months' tour through its most interesting districts.

"The book is not only the work of a man of the world, and a man of business, but from a literary point of view is excellently written. The numerous characteristic and well-selected engravings include some instructive and amusing native examples. Sir EDWARD REED naturally speaks favourably of his hosts. But his evident sympathy with a people who, he asserts, have not been well treated by the western powers in their national aspirations, is combined with keen critical insight."

The *Standard* says it is a remarkable book, not only for the mass of information which it contains, but for the industry which the author has exhibited in gathering together all this information in the course of a year, and that in the intervals of the busy life of a member of parliament.

"Here we have a completely new field laid open to us. We read of men as brave, virtuous and self-devoted as any of whom classical or modern story tells us, of great monarchs, of war and revolution. A completely new page of the history of mankind is open to us, and the only regret which the reader will feel on laying down the work is that the Japanese names are so excessively hard to pronounce, and still more to remember."

But all the reviews are not so favourable as those quoted above. The *Pall Mall Gazette*, although acknowledging that the volumes have done much to extend our knowledge of Japan, thinks it a pity that the author should

have shown himself so indiscriminating a friend.

"He has, although distinctly disclaiming to be thought the 'mouth piece' of the Japanese cabinet, as a matter of fact allowed his introduction to assume the form of a long indictment of our representative at Tokio. He has, for a man of his eminence and experience, shown some want of discrimination, if not of good-taste, in the readiness with which he has adopted the malicious anecdotes circulated in Tokio and Yokohama by the less reputable of the foreign journals concerning the able diplomatists who have spent no inconsiderable portion of their lives in guarding the interests of their respective countries at a vast distance from home."

The critiques of the *Examiner* and *John Bull* are distinctly hostile to the whole of the work. The former, comparing it with Miss BIRD's book, says,

"There is hardly any comparison to be made between the goodness of the two, whether we take literary merit, usefulness of information, fertility in amusement, or almost any other criterion for the standard. Although Miss BIRD has written volumes of travel in the first place, and a handbook to Japan and its customs in the second, while Sir EDWARD REED has reversed the order, the information as to the state of the country contained in the adventurous lady's book is much more precise, and better put than that given by the member of parliament."

Miss BIRD does not, *John Bull* says, indulge in the same enthusiastic language as Sir EDWARD REED, who in his delight in representative institutions, compulsory education, religious indifferentism, and a liberal patronage of the supplying of iron-clads, has not taken the trouble to penetrate below the surface, and takes his impressions of Japan from the politeness of cabinet ministers, rather than from the condition of the bulk of the people. It acknowledges the patience and industry displayed by him in his historical compilation, but observes that,

"He starts with the assumption that the Europeans, and especially his own countrymen, are sure to be in the wrong; but fortunately the reputation of Sir RUTHERFORD ALCOCK, our late minister, and Sir HARRY PARKES, his presentable successor, stand too high to be overthrown by the carping criticism in which Sir EDWARD REED indulges, after the fashion of liberal members of parliament when dealing with their own countrymen in foreign lands."

The *St. James's Gazette* says Sir EDWARD REED has little to tell us that has not been said elsewhere.

"Nevertheless, his two handsome volumes are both useful and interesting, for they contain a condensed and readable account of the history, religion and institutions of Japan, old and new, which the English reader cannot find in any other work with so little trouble. The author enjoyed unusual opportunities of learning all that was worth hearing from the best authorities, European and native; and he has worked up the whole of his materials, without much literary pretension, into a pleasant gossiping book."

It goes on to say that,—

"When the world knows little or nothing of a subject, it is generally bored by the excessive erudition of real scholars and experts who dwell at what seems to the outsider unnecessary length on the details of comparatively unimportant events. Any intelligent and cultivated

traveller who goes to the country (Japan) for a few months, asks questions of qualified authorities on the subjects which interests him, gets such a general view of the main results as satisfies his curiosity, and writes down his information, and his impressions at once, is far more likely to provide the home public with the account they require, than are the specialists who have made Japanese antiquities and history the study of a lifetime."

The *Literary World* thinks the merit of Sir EDWARD's authorship is not so much in originality or freshness as in clearness and correctness. It fears, however, that he was too highly placed, and that he saw only the life of the upper classes, of the men who had been in Europe, and had got European ideas.

"Sir EDWARD is rather sarcastic at the expense of his country. It is much to be regretted that there was, and is, justification for such a sarcasm. It seems that we have yet to learn how to treat other people as we would have others treat us."

*Nature* says that the fact—

"That a man of the scientific eminence and political experience of Sir EDWARD REED should take so much interest in Japan seems to us a proof that it really deserves the attention of all thoughtful men, and whatever conclusions such an observer may come to ought to have considerable weight with those who are not quite sure what to think of the strange social phenomenon that has been taking place for upwards of ten years in the furthest east."

Referring to the Shimonoseki case, the *Saturday Review* thinks Sir EDWARD REED could not have stated it with more advocate-like partiality if he held a brief for the Japanese government, and advises any member of parliament who thinks, after reading this book, of putting questions in the House of Commons on our relations with Japan, to study the blue-books of the period before doing so. If this advice be taken, it undertakes to say, that the questions will never be asked. The *Athenaeum* regrets that he has given his book so much the air of having been written for a purpose, by championing on all occasions the Japanese view of international questions in opposition to those of his own government.

"But none the less is our gratitude due to him for having written so vivacious an account of all he saw and heard during his stay in Japan."

The *Scotsman* in the course of an elaborate review observes that.

"Sir EDWARD REED has added another to the considerable list of his public services by producing a book which will enable any body who reads it to banish all inaccurate ideas at once. Sir Edward is not only one of the most distinguished of living naval architects, and an able politician; he is also a traveller of great experience, a keen and close observer, a man of high literary, scientific and artistic culture, and the master of a vigorous and picturesque style."

Although concluding that the readiness with which the government of Japan have adopted the methods of western civilization entitles them to demand absolute equality for their country,—“to have its so-called sovereign rights respected”—with far more justice than, for example, China, it thinks that the author forms too severe a judgment as to the policy pursued towards Japan hitherto by European governments.

"That policy may have been to some extent high-handed, but it is very doubtful whether gentler means would have sufficed to attain

the strictly legitimate end in view." The *United Service Gazette* says "the book will be accepted with pleasure by all readers who take an interest in the strange country and stranger people it deals with. The historical portions of the work are, as the writer allows, mainly the result of compilation, but they are not the less interesting on that account, and Sir Edward Reed has brought considerable industry and research to bear in this compilation."

The *Glasgow Herald* says that the writers' serious statements require investigation, but thinks that the Japanese themselves will have to concede a good deal ere they can be admitted to terms of national equality:

"They must be prepared to throw open their country as ours is to them, and in some other points make concessions to European opinion."

The Japanese, it says, evidently mean to have their country to themselves; they utilise Europeans and Americans only for the nonce, and when they have learned all that these have to teach they dispense with them. The present result, it adds, will certainly not be to Europeanise the country entirely; the western civilization and science will be grafted on to what is best in old Japan, and the result will doubtless be something different from both. The Japanese have evidently much to achieve yet ere they can be abreast of either Europe or America, but from what they have accomplished during the past fifteen years there is every reason to hope that in a generation or two the change from the old to the new will be complete and permanent. In a long *critique* the *Court Journal* waxed wroth at the condition of affairs described by Sir EDWARD REED. It says that the most serious questions become interesting under his treatment, and whether he discourses on the peculiarities of the Buddhist doctrines or on the attractiveness of the dark-eyed maidens, who seem to have been continually hovering about him, he appears to have been carried along with the charm of his surroundings. We now quote *in extenso*.

"Certainly not the least remarkable part of this work is to be found in the critical description of the present feeling of the Japanese towards foreigners, and particularly of the past diplomatic relations of their country with England. Our information on this head has hitherto been not only scanty, but one-sided. Our diplomatic representatives have from time to time given in their reports; for many reasons these reports were not safe guides, and although Sir E. Reed may have taken too thoroughly what may be called a pro-Japanese view, his criticisms are of great value as they corroborate to a large extent the statements made some time back by the present under secretary for foreign affairs in an article published in the *Fortnightly Review*, and subsequently incorporated into his *Greater Britain*. If these writers are correct we have misunderstood the real Japanese feeling, and attributed their apparent hostility to foreigners to wrong motives; and in this way we may have offended where conciliation was desirable, and opposed where proper guidance was eminently wanted. If then, for no other reason than to invite attention to, and produce discussion of, what we may call the Japanese question, we welcome Sir E. REED's bold and outspoken condemnation of our policy. The author, referring to the hostile feeling now existing to England, and referring to its origin and its causes, fairly and justly remarks. 'This, if true, is not as it

should be; diplomatic action which only averts hostilities, without engendering international good feeling, but half fulfils its mission.' A late writer in the *Quarterly Review* in criticizing this work most positively denies that there is any foundation for statements as to the existence of an irritated and jealous, if not of a positively adverse, state of feeling. But this, as a rejoinder, is mere assertion; and in no degree proves his accuracy or knowledge of the true state of the facts; he treats the subject too much *ex cathedra*, and, indeed, there is abundant internal evidence in the style, to suggest that it emanated from an official source. With due respect to the Reviewer, we beg to inform him that Tokio is still called Yedo (*sic*), and to ask where he obtained his familiarity with diplomatic correspondence which is certainly not accessible to the outside world. On this head we may remark that it is now many years since any Blue Books on Japan have made public the negotiations between that country and great Britain. They have been almost entirely confined to commercial reports. It is to be hoped, however, now that public opinion has been openly challenged, that next session full information will be moved for and produced, and that the stereotyped excuse of 'interference with the public interest' will not be permitted to deprive the nation of the means of forming a correct opinion upon this remarkable country."

Although we have not exhausted all the passages in various critiques which we had marked for quotation, our space forbids us to go on longer. We have endeavoured in this summary to

Nothing extenuate  
Nor set down aught in malice;

and to give faithfully the spirit of the reviews from which we have quoted. On the whole it may be said that the press of England was favourable to the contents and literary execution of the work, while a considerable and very influential portion justly reprehended the tone of the author's remarks on foreign diplomacy in Japan.—Oct. 29.

#### QUELPAERT AND KOREA TWO CENTURIES AGO.

(Concluded from September 9th.)

#### II.

THE second part of HAMBL's narrative is devoted to a description of Korea, and of the manners and customs of the inhabitants. Much of it that was new when the account of the shipwreck was written, and indeed up to a very few years ago, is not by any means so now, and therefore we can dismiss the rest of his book briefly. The country, he says, is known to the natives as Tiozenkonk or Caoli. It is divided into eight provinces, and 360 cities or town, not including numerous forts and castles, which are all erected on the mountains. The coasts are difficult and dangerous for navigation on account of rocks and shifting sands. At one place the country is only twenty-five or twenty-six leagues from the nearest point of the Japanese coast. The island of Suishima (Tsushima) lies in this channel. He states that Tsushima once belonged to the Koreans, but that one of their treaties of peace with the Japanese provided that the islands were henceforth to belong to the latter, who gave Quelpaert to Korea in exchange. We have never heard of this ex-

change before, and it would be of much interest to ascertain whether HAMBL's statement is correct. It is quite possible that Tsushima once belonged to Korea, and that the Japanese, recognising the importance of a convenient depot for their trade with the peninsula obtained possession of it; but we have never heard of Quelpaert being owned by the Japanese.

The seas around abound in fish; but whales and herrings are those chiefly caught. Travellers to or from China generally cross over by sea, because the roads are impassable through snow in winter, and are at all times dangerous on account of wild-beasts. The chief product is said to be "Nisi" (ginseng?) which is given as tribute to the Tartars. A great trade is carried on in this article with China and Japan, especially with the latter. Rice and other grain, hemp, cotton, silk-worms, silver, lead and tiger's skins are also produced largely; but the people do not know how to work the silk. Horses and cows also exist in abundance, oxen being chiefly used to till the soil. The crocodiles, alligators and poisonous serpents, which are found in great numbers, are very destructive.

The form of government is an absolute monarchy, although a small tribute is paid to the Tartars. The king is supreme, only calling in the assistance of his council when he thinks proper; and any member volunteering advice without being asked is severely punished. This council is composed of all the chief commanders by sea and land. The military force is said to be very numerous, for each province is compelled to keep up an army, which keeps guard once every seven years for two months, around the king's palace. The governor of the province is also the commander of the troops, and he has under him numerous subordinate officers who each govern a castle or other fortified place. The troops are armed with swords and bows and arrows. As there are numerous bays and inlets in the coast, a large navy is also maintained. This is placed under the command of admirals of districts, who are also members of the king's council. The revenue is derived from duty on all articles that come by sea (*sic*). Justice is administered with great severity, even the greatest persons not being spared. An instance is given in which the king's brother's wife was accused of trying to injure the king by means of charms. Her fame at needle work was great, and the king desired her to make him a jacket. She did so, but whenever he wore it, he was seized with illness. When the garment was cut up it was found that she had worked letters and charms into the inside. For this offence she was punished by being put into a room with a brass floor, and then the latter was heated to a white heat, so that she died. A kinsman of hers who interfered to pacify the king was first beaten with bamboos on the feet, and then decapitated. The punishment of a woman for slaying her husband was to be buried up to the neck near a frequented highway, with an axe near at hand. Every passer-by was then required to strike her once with the instrument, until she died. Of religion, Hamel says, they have "scarce any." The houses are of wood, covered with straw, tiles being used only when the king's permission has been obtained. The marriage and funeral customs, of which a very long description is given, seem greatly to resemble those of the Chinese.

They have little trade, he says, except with the Japanese.—Oct. 29.

## Reviews.

## ZOOLOGY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF TOKIO.\*

THE above named pamphlet is much more comprehensive, and embraces a wider range of subjects than its name implies. It contains a brief but complete review of the educational progress of Japan for a period extending over ten years. Mr. WHITMAN is a writer of a very different stamp to Sir EDWARD REED or what Sir JOHN POPE HENNESSY would be, if that "able officer of the crown" were to commit his high flown, Utopian theories to paper. Europeans, all the world over, admit the truth of the maxim that "Rome was not built in a day." Japanese, on the contrary, are singularly obtuse on that point, as indeed they are on many others. They imagine they can attain the *ne plus ultra* of excellence in everything by express train. Mr. WHITMAN devotes the first few pages of his cleverly written pamphlet to the explosion of this very erroneous idea. Foreign readers will readily assent to his arguments, but we are not so sure that natives of an enquiring turn of mind will be so easily convinced. It is rather disappointing to one's vanity to see his cherished notions scattered mercilessly to the winds, and this is exactly what Mr. WHITMAN has done with respect to the university the Japanese are so proud of. They have "laid the flattering unction to their souls" that ten years is a sufficient space of time to develop a "seat of learning" that can well compare with those of western nations. Mr. WHITMAN gives every credit to the Tokio Diagaku as an "educational institution that may fairly be called an embryo university," but most plainly and unequivocally declares that whoever thinks that a Japanese Oxford or Cambridge can be erected in five years, or in ten, or in any period of time less than half a century "builds his expectation on conceit, ignorance, or both." As he says, "the difficulties are many and great, and to surmount them will be a task less arduous than to carry Fuji to the sea." We commend the following extract to the notice of Sir E. J. REED and all those who have been misled by the "bold deductions based on insufficient premises" contained in his "massive tomes:"—

Foreign toad-eaters—who do figuratively what some of the Japanese do literally—have shown great zeal in their endeavour to blind the Japanese to the difficulties which they have to encounter, and to convince them and the rest of the world that their intellectual superiority has already placed them near the goal of their ambition. It is the conviction of the writer, which he shares with many others, that Japan has suffered far more from the fulsome adulation of professed friends than from the criticism of enemies. It tickles the vanity of a people to be told that they can accomplish in a day what has cost centuries of hard labour in other countries; but let us hope that the Japanese will not lay the flattering unction to their souls.

Mr. WHITMAN believes that the Tokio University has a bright future before it, although he does not shut his eyes to the difficulties of the situation, nor does he think it the part of wisdom or friendly interest to

ignore them. He then goes on to explain what those difficulties are, which seem to be:—impecuniosity brought about by the present financial condition of the country; the love of change and fickleness so commonly displayed by the Japanese, in which fickleness however, lies both a hope and a danger; "a hope that aimless change may be converted into steady progress, a danger that change may be mistaken for progress." The other two difficulties enumerated by our author are the "baneful influence of caste" and the "ponderous system of official machinery" with which the proper working of the educational system is encumbered. The author, after this long prelude proceeds to discuss the subject of Zoology.

The Japanese student of biology or zoology, it appears has a great advantage over his European competitor inasmuch as he has an entirely new field in which to pursue his investigations; whereas most of the available ground in Europe has been preoccupied. As long as he has the will and the ability to learn he has splendid opportunities of distinguishing himself.

Mr. WHITMAN credits Professor MORSE with being the first to establish a course of Zoological instruction in the Tokio university to whose energy and enthusiasm may be ascribed whatever opportunities students may now enjoy. The discovery of the Omori shell mounds first awakened an interest in the subject, which interest was kept alive and fanned into a flame by the varied and untiring activity which Professor MORSE displayed in scientific research.

In carrying out the work of instruction Mr. WHITMAN, who succeeded Professor MORSE, has been heavily handicapped. It took the "powers that be" some time to consider which of the two plans proposed by him should be carried out, viz. whether the memoirs compiled by the students should be published in their own names after revision by the instructor, or whether the result of their researches should be incorporated with his own and be given to the world as his. After they had made up their minds on this point, the next thing was to provide a proper set of books, and here they were decidedly backward in coming forward. Mr. WHITMAN has apparently often been in the position of a carpenter without tools, who has been expected to get through just the same amount of work as if he had them. He has had also to encounter a great deal of what he mildly calls "official prevarication" but which might be characterised by a much stronger term. He has also not had a proper laboratory in which to carry out experiments. Whatever success he has achieved in the midst of so many difficulties redounds all the more to his credit.

How fine a field of investigation Japan affords is amply shown in the following passage which we transcribe *in extenso*:—

"Let us consider how liberally nature has provided for the Japanese biologist. She has cut off a strip of land from the continent of Asia by means of seas and straits, and divided it into a chain of many islands, stretching fully 25° of latitude from Kamtschatka on the north to the southernmost limit of the Liu Kiu Islands. These islands are so many great Zoological gardens, so disposed that they extend nearly through the best two thirds of the temperate zone. But these 3,000 or more island gardens included in the Mikado's Empire, are supplemented on the north by the Aleutian Isles, and southward they lead through the Philippine Islands into the great Australian group. For

immeasurable periods of time, the Japan Islands have been isolated from one another and from the mainland by the encircling ocean, which forms around each a vast marine aquarium. In the formation of these islands, portions of the continental fauna became enclosed, and such animals as could not fly or swim from shore to shore—passing over the possibility of transportation through the agency of winds, currents, and migrating animals—were henceforth confined within the limits of their respective islands. Could human wisdom have devised a more efficient and comprehensive plan for testing some of the great questions which have been so much discussed since 1859? Nature has certainly been experimenting on a grand scale, and for a length of time that defies all calculation. The results of her experiments are to be learned by a comparison of the faunas of these islands with one another and with that of the continent from which they were severed. The long isolation under more or less altered conditions of life, has afforded an opportunity for adding increment to increment of change, until the animals exhibiting the cumulative results differ, as a rule, to a more or less conspicuous degree from their nearest living allies in Europe, Asia and America. For numerous instances we may refer the reader to Von Siebold's "Fauna Japonica," to the University memoirs of Professor MORSE and Professor BRAUNS, and to recent papers by Mr. LEWIS and others. One interesting case, which has received special attention from the writer, is found in a small fresh water fish, very common about Tokio. There is in Europe a well known little fish, called *Rhodeus Amarus*, which has the very curious habit of depositing its eggs in the gills of a mussel (*Anodonta*), where they remain until they hatch and the embryos have attained a considerable size. For the deposit of the eggs, the fish is provided with a tube one to two inches long, by means of which the eggs are delivered to the care of the mollusk. The colouring of the male fish during the breeding season is remarkably brilliant. Now at least three varieties of this fish are to be found in the brooks and ponds of Tokio, possessing all the above-named peculiarities and habits, but with differences so pronounced that they may be easily distinguished from one another, and from the European species."

Mr. WHITMAN gives some curious and interesting instances of the effects of climatic and other influences on various animals common to other parts of the world, which may be observed amongst the species found in Japan. In some cases a marked transition, from aquatic to terrestrial life, has been brought about by a saturated atmosphere. Of this class are the land leech, the land planarian and a curious kind of "jumping fish" which abound in this country. The latter according to Mr. WHITMAN has succeeded in overcoming every obstacle to living out of water and is "more truly, amphibious than the frog, for it is able to change the mode of its respiration at pleasure, breathing water and air alternately." Mr. WHITMAN would like to see "Seaside Schools" established for the pursuit of his favorite study but fears any proposal for their adoption would be met by the laconic response "no money." Such a response he says would exceed the truth and fall far short of common sense. The real difficulty is not that there is no money, but that the people of Japan are so eminently practical that they do not care to invest in anything that is neither "tintinn-

\* Zoology in the University of Tokio, by C. O. WHITMAN. Yokohama: F. & W. & Co.



abulous nor convertible into kinsatsu." "Any science that offers opportunities for pilfering 'squeezers,' makes no promise to improve the rice crop or the flavour of the *saké*, serves none of the wants of sensual pleasure, jingles no bells, and refuses to make use of the sop of flattery, may be suffered to exist for the sake of appearances, but is certain to be stigmatised as unprofitable."

To prove the fallacy of this very "practical" view of things, Mr. WHITMAN briefly discusses the question of culture and shows the advantages to be derived from a careful study of the liberal sciences both "pure" and "applied." He then shows some of the "practical" lessons to be derived from Zoology, such as the discovery of those micro-organisms, commonly called *bacteria* which cause meat to putrefy, fruit to rot, milk to sour, and numerous other kinds of fermentation, in addition to being a fruitful source of zymotic and other diseases.

Such, in brief, is the sum and substance of Mr. WHITMAN's pamphlet. Our review has of necessity been a brief and a hurried one; in fact, much more so than we could wish. Mr. WHITMAN is a naturalist whom any University may be justly proud to number amongst its roll of professors. Although he does not say so in as many words he evidently holds, to some extent, the Darwinian theory of evolution and development. For this, we think no one will quarrel with him, except it be a few prejudiced persons, who prefer to walk in the blindness of faith rather than in the light of reason. Old-world fables regarding the origin of the human race are now pretty well exploded and no longer carry much weight with any biologist who has attentively studied the subject.

We can safely commend Mr. WHITMAN's work to the favourable consideration of our readers. The light, flowing style in which he expresses his thoughts will cause many to read the book who may have hitherto considered zoology to be too dry and abstruse a subject to be classed amongst light literature. There is however, a happy knack peculiar to some writers of popularising instruction, of (figuratively) instilling life and warmth into dead, dry-as-dust matter, and we have no hesitation in saying that Mr. WHITMAN possesses this faculty to an eminent degree.

## Reports.

### THE FLYING SQUADRON.

THE long anticipated visit of the Flying Squadron and the two English Princes has at length become a reality. Early yesterday morning (21st. Oct.) it became known that the fleet was in sight, and crowds of foreigners and Japanese flocked to the Bund. The vessels, four in number, steamed slowly up the bay, the *Bacchante* leading the way, followed by the *Cleopatra* a little to starboard, then came the flagship, *Inconstant*, almost abreast of the *Cleopatra* on the port side, the *Carysfort* bringing up the rear. As the squadron steamed slowly round the lightship they presented a very imposing appearance; the *Bacchante*, on board of which are the Princes, being distinguishable by a peculiar white band round her bulwarks; which had the effect in the distance of making her look considerably smaller than she really is; and the immense size of the *Inconstant* rendered

her easily recognisable. There was considerable speculation as to the absence of the *Tourmaline*, we may therefore mention that that vessel being short of coal put into Simoda yesterday afternoon on account of bad weather, for though Yokohama was not visited with much wind, we are informed that it blew a severe gale outside the bay.

Much surprise was evinced when it was found the Princes Albert Victor and George of Wales were not going to land yesterday. It is not often that Japanese are caught napping when visitors of distinction are expected, but in this instance they were, for it turns out that they did not expect the fleet to arrive until next Tuesday. The consequence was no persons of distinction arrived to welcome the sons of the Prince of Wales. On applying at the Port Admiral's office for information as to the time the Princes would land and proceed to Tokio, we were politely informed that instructions had been received from the Minister of the War Department to the effect that no information was to be given to the public without first obtaining the permission of that officer. However, we have received information from a trustworthy source that the Princes will land on Monday morning; and as the *Bacchante* lies a long way out, the guns will give ample notice of the time of leaving the ship.

The squadron left Brisbane, Queensland, on the 20th August last for Fiji, having spent a very pleasant time in the Australian colonies, especially at Melbourne, which an officer on the flagship enthusiastically terms "one of the finest cities in the world." The original programme was that the fleet should remain at Melbourne a week; but the hospitality of the Australians was so much appreciated, that it was only at the end of seven weeks of continuous festivity the men-of-war contrived to get away. Brisbane does not appear to have been so much appreciated, which is not to be wondered at when it is understood that the vessels had to anchor about twenty-five miles from the city.

The journey to Fiji was made without accident, Levuka being reached on the 3rd September. The squadron had been expected and the natives proceeded to welcome them in their own peculiar fashion which, to say the least, appears to have been very hearty. The officers were invited on shore to a *make make*, or dance by torchlight, in which the King's warriors took part, dressed in their war paint, and armed with immense clubs, which they twisted about with as much ease as if they were only twigs, and throwing themselves into all sorts of fantastic attitudes. The dance was renewed every night. The chiefs boarded the *Bacchante* in order to see the Princes, bringing presents of turtle, yams and kindred things; and before the vessels left natives and foreigners were invited to a dance on board the *Inconstant*, an invitation which as many availed themselves of as the ship would hold. The natives greatly admired the engines of war on board; but what astonished them most during the stay of the squadron was an exhibition of the electric light. They were puzzled, but finally came to the conclusion that the sun had returned before its usual time and settled on the *Inconstant*.

On the 10th. September the squadron sailed away from the Fiji islands for Japan, with fine weather and the prospect of a pleasant and speedy passage. As the vessels were mostly under sail, however, a succession of calms retarded their progress considerably.

On passing Pleasant Island, some of the inhabitants boarded the men-of-war, bringing with them pigs, yams, fowls and a couple of kittens. The officers of the *Inconstant* were somewhat surprised to receive a visit here from an Englishman, who gave the name of Harris, and said that he had been on the island thirty-nine years. The inhabitants of Pleasant Island number about two thousand, and are noted for their frequent quarrels with each other. The man Harris said he was a native of Plymouth and had always been well treated by the natives.

On the 27th. September the Caroline group was sighted; and on the 13th. inst. the Bonin islands passed. The weather had been exceptionally fine and warm, the thermometer remaining in the neighbourhood of ninety degrees the whole way. On Thursday last, however, the weather changed, raining heavily the whole day and blowing a gale, which, as before mentioned, necessitated the *Tourmaline* putting into Simoda bay for shelter.

A few days ago the *Zephyr* left Yokohama with the mails for the squadron, but unfortunately did not fall in with it, so the *Pegasus* yesterday morning went to look for the *Zephyr*. It is supposed the latter was passed in the night by the squadron.

The *Wanderer* was left behind at Levuka with instructions to proceed to the Sandwich islands, thence to Hakodate and Yokohama, and may be expected here in a short time.

The *Inconstant* is an iron vessel with wood casing, of 16 guns, eight of which are twelve tons, throwing shot of 250 lbs. weight. Her full complement of officers and men number 605, but by deaths and desertions that number has been reduced to 560. Though not what might be called a handsome vessel the *Inconstant* is the most imposing of the squadron, and is noted for her speed she being capable of exceeding 18 knots an hour. She is propelled by two horizontal trunk engines made by Humphrey and Tennant; and an Australian contemporary says that the main engines at full speed make fifty revolutions, the shaft having a diameter of 20 in. Travelling down the tunnel ample opportunity is afforded the visitor to appreciate the immense proportions of this forging, and at the same time to become practically acquainted with the method of adjusting the propeller, so that it may be raised and the ship put under canvas. To accomplish this a gauge is fitted just inside the bush, by means of which the engineers can tell when the screw is straight up and down, and in a proper position to receive the large frame. The latter contrivance is then lowered over the fan, the tackles fixed to the purchases, and in merry measure, with life and drum, the tars haul the ponderous propeller up the trunk way. The tunnel is not by any means an uninteresting place, for it discloses the lighting arrangements of the magazines, in the shape of recesses, through the glass sides of which brilliant lights stream, thus providing all illumination to be desired with positive safety. Then there is ample room for the stowage of spare boiler tubes, which, by the way, can be replaced at sea without difficulty. Duplicates of every part of the machinery are conveniently disposed in various parts of the engine-room, a large cylinder cove being especially an object of admiration. There are two complete sets of diving apparatus on board, and no less than thirty of the crew of 605 are qualified to use them. The special engines provided for pumping purposes are in themselves extremely powerful, one of these—a double cylinder

horizontal of 40-horse power—drives a pair of pumps, whilst another of vertical pattern is connected with a centrifugal. The combined power thus developed throws 2,279 tons of water out of the ship per hour. Then there are engines for compressing air for the torpedoes, for driving the electric light apparatus, and starting the main propelling power. Some idea of the extent of the machinery and the value of the ship may be gathered from the fact that the boilers cost £22,000, the pumping engines £12,000, the main engines £32,000, the spare gear £4,000, and the vessel complete £243,000. Passing into the stokeholes one discovers that the boilers are placed in the wings of the ship, as is usually the case in the service. The boilers, eleven in number, are divided between two water-tight compartments, and the steam is so distributed that one compartment can be flooded without depriving the ship of her engine-power. The principle of water-tight compartments is thoroughly carried out throughout the vessel. Special precautions are taken in order to secure the prompt closing of all doors, when an emergency arises. The bunkers have a capacity of 800 tons, which quantity, however, would scarcely be sufficient for ten days' steaming. Leaving the engine-room one passes through a very large store-room, containing, among other things, a massive steel cable, which supplanted the 22 in. European formerly in use. The cable, which is carried on a drum, proved to be of the greatest service when the squadron was proceeding from the Falkland Islands to the Cape; it became necessary that the flagship should tow two of her consorts, and the new cable was quite equal to the immense strain. The chain cables are of extraordinary size; one is provided for each of the twelve anchors on board, the regulation length being 120 fathoms. The capstan is of the ordinary style, fitted only for manual power. The absence of steam steering-gear is also remarkable, the huge helm being controlled by three wheels, with the usual brake. Upon the main deck the principal armament is carried, and it is here that the visitor realises the ship's power. Upon either side are five 12 ton 9 in. M.L.R. guns, carrying 250 lb. shot, so that the weight of the broadside would be 1,250 lb., or something over half a ton. The guns can be laid by corresponding quadrants under instructions from the officer on the upper deck, who directs that the line of fire shall be so many degrees before or abaft the beam; the ship is then brought into the proper position by the helm, and the moment the quadrant is justified the whole broadside is discharged by electricity. It is hardly reassuring to the landsman that so much reliance should be placed on a network of wires, the circuit of which a shot might sever. The electrical current is applied from cells in the bottom of the ship. Immediately abaft the main battery, and facing the ports in the same manner as the guns, are the two Whitehead torpedoes; these formidable engines of naval warfare each repose in a cradle which in itself is a marvel of mechanism. The torpedo is a cigar-shaped cylinder, from 14ft. to 15ft. long, constructed of steel; the head is fitted with two feelers like the whiskers of a cat, which act as detonators, whilst the tail ends with a screw propeller similar to that used in a small steam launch. The interior is divided into three compartments, the first containing the bursting charge of 37lb. of gun cotton; the second the air-chamber; and the third the propelling mechanism. The compressed

air is supplied from an engine, the presence of which has already been noticed in the machinery department, the pressure being equal to 750lb. to the square inch, though that of 1,000lb. is available; the charging is accomplished by connecting a  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. supply pipe with an aperture in the casing, the operation occupying from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 minutes; a small gauge near the face regulates the distance the machine is required to run, and the extent of submersion, and then all is ready for action. The projection of the torpedo through the port into the water is accomplished by means of what is known as the "impulse motion," which consists of a piston supplied with air from an independent reservoir. Electricity is applied to bring the piston into play, the spark being used to release a weighted crank, which in turn starts the whole mechanism. It is asserted that one of these torpedoes is sufficient to destroy the most formidable ironclad afloat. The contract price at which they are manufactured is £450 each. Upon the same deck are several rocket tubes for boat service, in addition to the various small arms. The rifles supplied to the seamen number 204, and are of the Martini-Henry pattern. New revolvers were served out in Melbourne; these are fitted with Adams's new bull-dog extractor, an invention of the greatest utility in the process of reloading. On the upper deck are six  $6\frac{1}{2}$  ton guns disposed in such a manner as to command a fire from either side of the ship; two of these are placed just before the mizen mast, and constitute the quarter-deck battery; two more are situated further forward, and the remaining pair serve as bow and stern chasers. At the broadside are six 20lb. Armstrong guns, throwing lead coated projectiles; these are simply used for saluting purposes. In addition to these are four Gatling guns for each top, weapons which proved their efficacy when the *Shah*—a sister ship of the *Inconstant*—encountered the Peruvian ironclad *Huascar*. The ingenuity of these mitrailleuses is remarkable, every one of the ten barrels having an independent lock, which can be replaced, even in action, at a moment's notice; these weapons are true sighted to 2000 yards, and discharge 200 shots per minute. Then on the bridge and on either side of the fore-castle are found the Nordenfeldt guns, designed to repel and destroy torpedo boats; these wonderful contrivances discharge balls, each weighing  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb, with a speed that is astonishing; one man can easily handle the weapon, depressing it or describing a circle with ease. We were informed that these guns would fire 200 balls a minute, and hit an object with remarkable accuracy at 3,000 yards. Upon the bridge is the lantern of the electric light, which is used for discovering torpedo boats, signalling purposes, and navigating at night time or in foggy weather.

#### GRAND BALL AT TOKIO.

THE ball given last night (27th. ult.) at the Engineering College Tokio will long be remembered by those who had the privilege of being present. It was one of the most splendid entertainments which has ever taken place within the memory of the "oldest inhabitant," whoever that apocryphal individual may be, and it is to be hoped that the young guests in whose honour the festivities were celebrated will return to the "old country" duly impressed with the generous hospitality of the Japanese, who have certainly

done their best to accord a hearty welcome to the grandsons of England's queen.

As "faithful chroniclers" we shall of course be expected to give a true account of all that took place; but how to begin, or what to say is the difficulty, for to use the words of Shakespeare "it beggar'd all description." As Byron says:—

"A thousand hearts beat happily and when  
Music arose with its voluptuous swell,  
Soft eyes look'd love to eyes that spoke again,  
And all went merry as a marriage bell."

To come to the point. The invitations were issued for 8.30 p.m. and most of the Yokohama guests came up by the 7 o'clock train. During the journey a heavy shower of rain fell and it was feared that there was a wet walk or ride in store from Shinbashi station to the Kōbu Daigakko. Such fears proved to be groundless as the weather cleared long before the train reached its destination.

It has often been said that "one man's necessity is another's opportunity," and so it proved with the *jinrikisha* men at Shinbashi. They knew their services were indispensable and had to be engaged at any price. As a natural consequence they did not forget to "put it on." Their demands were extortionate beyond all conscience. There can be no question that they reaped a rich harvest last night, although, they did not get all they asked for. They had to submit to a compromise.

During the greater part of the way the drive from the station to the scene of the festivities was not a particularly pleasant one. The night was pitch dark, the springs of Tokio *jinrikisha* are very often rather the worse for being new so soon, and the roads of that city would cause Macadam to shed tears were he still in the land of the living. After a ten minutes jolt our attention was directed to what in the thick darkness which prevailed, appeared to be countless balls of fire suspended in mid air. A few moments more and the mystery was cleared up. The lofty arch-way leading into the grounds of the Kōbu Daigakko was festooned with crimson Japanese lanterns, as also were the numerous trees in the enclosure; indeed they were suspended from every possible and impossible place and their number must have reached hundreds, if not thousands. The effect was magnificent, though it is an open question whether it might not have been enhanced by the lamps being of different colours and patterns instead of one uniform design. The corridor leading to the large hall was also hung with lanterns on which were depicted various national flags, &c.

Proceeding onwards by "slow and sure" degrees the guests reached the entrance, where they were cordially greeted by their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princesses Kita Shirakawa, to whom the highest praise is due for the courtesy and urbanity they displayed to every one.

The spacious hall which had been set apart for the worship of Terpsichore was tastefully decorated with flowers and evergreens, the galleries being hung with red and white cloth looped up here and there with crimson tassels. Above the dais at the upper end, on which seats were ranged for the accommodation of the royal and imperial party was a large cedar tree from which were suspended various floral designs and over which the royal standards of England and Japan were intertwined.

The guests began to arrive about 8.30 and kept pouring in until about 10.15 p.m.,

by which time there could not have been less present than about from 350 to 400. To give the names of even a quarter part of those who responded to the invitation would be impossible. Suffice it to say that the members of the cabinet, many of the *daijin*, *sangi*, heads of departments, naval and military officers in the imperial service, &c., &c. Many of the last named were in uniform, but by far the majority were in plain evening dress. The *corps diplomatique* were also strongly represented, as also were the officers of the ships belonging to the detached squadron, and there was also a large number of the leading foreign residents of Tokio and Yokohama.

About 10.20 p.m. there were signs of a "move on the boards." Presently, at a signal from one of the masters of ceremonies the band stationed in the gallery commenced "God save the Queen," and their Royal Highnesses Princes Albert Victor and George entered the hall escorting respectively Princesses Hignshi Fushimi and Kita Shirakawa, and attended by Mr. Kennedy, H. M.'s *Chargé d'Affaires*, members of the legation, &c., &c.

After the party had taken their seats on the dais several presentations were made to their Royal Highnesses by Mr. Kennedy, the Hon. John A. Bingham, U. S. Minister, &c. We have read somewhere about that "divinity which doth hedge a king," but no such idea seems to possess the young princes. Forms and ceremonies were scattered to the winds by them; there was no standing on dignity, they shook hands and conversed freely and affably with all to whom they were introduced, and there can be no doubt they won golden opinions on all sides by the tact they displayed in thus ignoring the worn-out traditions of unbending royal etiquette.

The masters of ceremonies knew their duty, performed it cleverly, and were not long in requesting partners to take their places for the first set. The band struck up and Prince Albert Victor led off with Miss Inouye, daughter of the minister for foreign affairs—who by the wayspeaks English most fluently and often acts as interpreter for the Empress—and Prince George with Mrs. Kennedy. Dancing was kept up with much spirit until about 11.20, when an adjournment was made to the refreshment rooms, where ample justice was done to the good things provided.

After an interval of about half an hour the "light fantastic" was resumed. The princes joined in one or two round dances and returned to the Yenriokwan about 12.15 a.m. The departure of the principal guests proved a signal for many others to follow their example. The majority of the Yokohama visitors returned by the 1 a.m. special train, though there were a few energetic dancers who preferred to avail themselves of the one which left an hour later.

Thus ended an affair which was a triumphant success. We feel certain that those who were present were deeply sensible of the generous hospitality displayed by their Japanese hosts and that this pleasant evening will be long and gratefully remembered by one and all.

#### FOREIGN SILK ASSOCIATION.

Minutes of a meeting of silk merchants held at the rooms of the Chamber of Commerce, on Thursday, the 20th. Oct., 1881.

Mr. Wilkin in the chair.

After the minutes of last meeting had been read and confirmed.

The CHAIRMAN stated that the draft of the memorial which had been laid before them last week would not come up for consideration. It had been circulated for perusal in a form somewhat amended in order to meet the opinions expressed at last meeting. At the same time, he would say that so many further suggestions had been made, and such different views expressed as to the best mode of putting the subject into shape, that the committee thought it better not to attempt the impracticable task of combining everything, and that it would be better not to proceed with it at present:—he understood also that the gentleman who originally framed it had the same views.

The Chairman also stated that a letter had been received by Mr. Walsh and himself from the Hon. J. A. Bingham, in which Mr. Bingham expressed his regret that there appeared to have been some misunderstanding as to how it was he himself had sent no reply to it, and begged that it might be understood that he intended no disrespect.

The import merchants had continued their attempts at mediation, and the chairman read a letter received from them that afternoon, in which they made some propositions. These propositions, it would be seen, went very little way further than before, but he believed that they might pave the way to further concessions, and ultimately to such as might be acceptable. He presumed that it was unnecessary to ask them not to give credence to the reports which were spread by the native newspapers and else wise as to the subject.

Mr. P. THOMAS then proposed—seconded by Mr. HEIMANN:—

That the resolution as passed last week, and reaffirming the declaration of 21st. September should be again confirmed and renewed. Carried unanimously.

Mr. HEIMANN proposed and Mr. KINGDON seconded:—

That the memorial should be withdrawn.

#### SILK ASSOCIATION.

After considerable discussion Mr. KINGDON proposed in order to test the feeling of the meeting and Mr. E. WHITTALL seconded:—

That no notice be taken of the letter received from the native import merchants.

Mr. THOMAS proposed as an amendment and Mr. J. FRASER seconded:—

That a reply be sent to the import merchants, thanking them for their attempted mediation but stating that the terms they propose shew that they have failed to comprehend the real nature of the difference between the silk guild and the foreign buyers.

Mr. PAUL HEIMANN proposed as a second amendment and Mr. C. HEIMANN seconded:—

That the committee reply to the letter from the native import merchants declining their mediation on the basis of the rules proposed by the guild remaining in force.

The latter amendment was put to the meeting and lost and Mr. T. THOMAS's amendment was then carried.

A vote of thanks to the chairman was proposed and unanimously carried and the meeting was adjourned *sine die*.

#### EQUAL RIGHTS FOR THE PEOPLE— EVEN THOUGH NOT FULLY CIVILIZED.

An address delivered by Mr. Itagaki in Osaka.  
(Osaka Nippo—Hiogo News Translation.)

My purpose, gentlemen, in addressing you is to speak about the principle of liberty, equality of rights, and I advance as my

theme the proposition that there ought to be no difference in the rights of the people even though the country may not be fully civilized.

Now this principle which we advocate has not as yet attained its proper influence over the public mind. Why is this? Is it because those who advocate it are in a minority? or is it because the people at large do not take sufficient interest in national affairs? Which-ever may be the fact in the case, we believe that we have not as yet exerted our whole strength in promulgating the principle. Hence this shall be my present endeavour, and instead of blunting the point of my spear in an attack upon the branch castles and small fortifications of those who oppose us, I prefer to advance at once upon their chief strongholds, and pressing with short-end sword directly into their citadel crush them there before the eyes of all.

I will leave it to your judgment, gentlemen, as to whether I succeed in my attempt.

Let me, then, in the first place, state simply and concisely what that position of our opponents is, and make that the ground of my criticisms. They tell us, then, that our people are as yet uncivilized; that the poor and ignorant are very numerous, and that if, with the people thus poor and ignorant, we make public discussion a prominent feature of the government, i. e. institute a constitutional form, it will be detrimental to the public welfare. For, they say, as the poor have no property as a nucleus for their affections and interests, their self regard will be of a shallow, superficial nature, not deep and permanent, and their actions will be inconstant and unstable. So too, as regards the ignorant, not having sufficient knowledge for a proper consideration of matters at issue, they will be careless in judgment, fickle in conduct, and rude in manner. It is then poor and ignorant classes which constitute the majority in society. And to have this majority of the poor and ignorant dominating over and ruling the upper classes—the intelligent and rich, who are in a minority—will be injurious to the welfare, the happiness of society, and endanger the very life of our country.

So it is said, but to such reasoning I cannot assent. Let me, however, before I attack this position of our opponents, beg your attention while I explain the meaning of this term welfare or happiness. As men's faculties vary in degree, it is evident that their happiness also varies, so that the degree which one person will have in certain prescribed circumstances cannot be predicted by the experience of another in similar circumstances. For instance, one person meeting with difficulty lacks power of endurance, and hence succumbs to it, in which case the difficulty becomes a source of unhappiness to him. But another person, having power of endurance, meets this same difficulty and conquers it, thereby gaining strength, and to him the difficulty proves a source of happiness. The very same difficulty proves a source of happiness to one, and of unhappiness to the other. It is just like a full grown person being able to digest corn and meat for his food, while children must be content with milk.

Hence Mr. Spencer's definition of happiness as the ability to use the various faculties in due proportion is a true one, as I have no doubt you will all acknowledge. Let me then proceed at once to the proper subject of discussion,

Among mankind freedom does not differ with difference of race; it does not permit

diversity of right, but guarantees equal right to all. *A priori*, there is no fixed rule of society that A. should stand above B., and above C. The reason that there is, at present, such difference of rights is because the rich and intelligent dominate over the poor and ignorant, who submit from lack of power to maintain their rights.

Not that the poor and ignorant cannot stand of themselves; not that they have no liking for liberty, but that they cannot do otherwise than yield, being constrained by their circumstances.

Again, society is not a term which stands for one individual or one family. As Taiko (a noted Chinese scholar) said, "the world is not the world of one man, but the world of the world;" so society is not the society of one man, but the society of society, and hence whatever tends to the happiness of the greatest number of people must be regarded as tending to the happiness of society. This is a fixed principle in the organisation of political society.

Moreover, look at England, France and America, countries whose civilization is undoubted, and the fitness of whose people to take a part in the government is admitted by those who argue against us. You will see in these countries also, very diverse conditions in respect to poverty and wealth, intelligence and ignorance, and hence the theory that, for a majority of the lower classes to rule a minority of the upper classes is injurious to the happiness of society, will hold equally true in those countries, so that, if we admit for the sake of argument their contention, we must declare that England, France and America have also not yet advanced to that state where the people show a fitness to take part by public discussion in their own government. Moreover, when our opponents argue that the government should be in the hands of the wise, they do not mean by the wise the *sages* of the world, as Socrates, Confucius and Mencius, for the wisdom of these holy men cannot be comprehended by the vulgar eyes of the world. What they mean by "the wise" are those whom the great mass of the people acknowledge to be wise, and the reason that the people acknowledge them to be so is because they, the people, can understand them, can sympathize with them, and believe them able to promote the general welfare: i.e., the common people thinking their own happiness to be identical with that of these men whom they acknowledge as wise, can sympathize with them. Consequently there is no reason at all for supposing that the majority of the common people will interfere with the welfare of the wise minority. To suppose it would be self-contradictory, since the common people by so doing would be preventing their own happiness. Hence, though I have often reflected upon the subject, I cannot understand how the majority composed of the poor and ignorant are going to injure or mar the welfare of a rich and intelligent minority.

Now—granting that the government should be administered by the wisest—how are these men to be chosen? Suppose that by chance we have a man preëminent for wisdom, and exalt him to be the head of the nation; what if he, relying upon his own wisdom, rules according to his unrestrained will as a despot?

We must pronounce such a course exceedingly injurious to society, because, if he consults only his own wisdom, though he be wise, as the people do not exercise their minds, nor take part in public matters, they

will, instead of advancing, retrograde in knowledge and intelligence and fall to a condition which is beyond our conception. For confirmation look at Rome during the reign of Augustus, and Spain under Ferdinand, and see how the state of society declined. Whenever we can point to the reign of a despot and call it beneficial, we perceive that it had already lost the spirit of despotism.

Such sayings as that of Kuachu, that "the administration will prosper when it follows the heart of the people, and will fall when it is against the heart of the people!" Such as that of Taiko, "There is nothing unseen if we look with the eyes of the world," such as that of Mencius, "Only after the whole people have called a man wise ought we to regard him as such and exalt him," and such as that, written in the Book of Traditions, "He who likes what the people like, and hates what the people hate, is called indeed the parent of the people." Such sayings as these do not designate a man moved by a spirit of self-assertion, but one who listens to others. A government administered by such an one has lost the spirit of despotism. If so, is it not better to establish from the outset a representative or constitutional government?

Again, for what purpose is a government established? Is it not to defend the weak against abuse by the strong? Now the government, on the contrary, is pursuing a policy which makes the rich and intelligent tyrannize over the poor and ignorant; fostering that spirit leads the strong to abuse the weak. Is not this entirely contrary to the fundamental principle of proper government? It is just like an attempt to protect yourself against thieves by the help of other thieves whom you permit to practice their art freely.

Now I believe that I have wasted our opponents in their chief stronghold—their citadel. Having crushed their greatest argument, there remains only the minor point, viz., the belief that there is no constancy in the heart of a people who have no permanence in their occupations. I will not leave the enemy even this argument unanswered, they might attempt to shield themselves in a measure against the full force of what I have said.

If we look at the testimony of history, both ancient and modern, we shall see that the spirit of progress manifests itself first among the poorer classes, while as a rule most of the rich are conservative in spirit. Take an example from the facts in the late revolution. The patriots sprang mostly from the poorer class, while the rich held back and simply looked at the troubles which threatened the country from within and from without.

Furthermore, as the rich have an egotistic bias, we see examples of men who have for the sake of their own personal advantage turned traitor to the country. Consequently I assert that the spirit of patriotism does not depend upon conditions of wealth or poverty, but always springs from the activity of the public spirit, and fails when such activity is wanting.

Having thus met the arguments of the enemy in every point, and answered leaving them no way of escape, I will conclude by reiterating the declaration that there ought to be no difference in the rights of the people, even though they may not be fully civilized.

Verily we must guard against the tendency to fall into that spirit of corrupt scholars and base men which leads to the abuse of the weak by the strong. It is our duty to help the weak and defend them against the en-

croachments of the mighty. From this duty we will not turn aside, even though our bodies be crushed and our bones ground to powder.

## CRICKET.

### YOKOHAMA C. C. vs. VISITORS, NAVY AND TOKIO.

This match, which took place on the 21st. October was of great interest to all lovers of cricket from the fact that one of the best players in the world was to take a part, resulted in a victory for the Yokohama Cricket Club, of which the members may justly feel proud. The visitors won the toss and owing to the non-arrival of Mr. I. D. Walker sent the club to the wickets at about 11 o'clock. The first four wickets were very speedily disposed of, for only 15 runs. Messrs. Duff and W. B. Thomson then made a good stand and ran the score up to 84, before they were separated by an unlucky hit of the former gentleman. Mr. Sutter then followed and contributed 20, playing quite in his old form: his two hits for 4 being made in particularly clean style. Mr. Stephens also batted well but was very injudicious in his running which ended in his running himself out. The score of the Yokohama Cricket Club finally closed after tiffin with a total of 132, and Mr. I. D. Walker and Mr. R. Layard then went in for the visitors. The former gentleman played in splendid style, placing carefully every ball he hit out of the way of the fielders and during the whole of his innings did not give a single chance, carrying out his bat for 52 runs. The rest of the eleven did not play in good form, and the total score obtained was only 99. In many cases the fielding of the Yokohama Cricket Club was very careless and a good many extra runs were thus added to the score which we append:—

#### YOKOHAMA.

Dr. E. Wheeler, b. Strange	- - - - -	4
J. P. Mollison, c. Trevelthick, b. Layard	- - - - -	4
G. T. Veitch, c. Large, b. Layard	- - - - -	3
J. H. Thompson, b. Layard	- - - - -	0
C. M. Duff, c. Large, b. Strange	- - - - -	21
W. B. Thomson, b. Strange	- - - - -	42
W. Sutter, b. Strange	- - - - -	20
J. Dodds, c. Walker, b. Strange	- - - - -	3
B. Durant, c. Blennerhasset, b. Strange	- - - - -	2
C. E. Stephens, run out	- - - - -	13
A. Hearne, not out	- - - - -	2
Byes	- - - - -	6
Leg Byes	- - - - -	4
Wides	- - - - -	8

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#### VISITORS, NAVY AND TOKIO.

I. D. Walker, not out	- - - - -	52
R. Layard, b. Wheeler	- - - - -	3
Dr. Blennerhasset, b. Wheeler	- - - - -	0
F. W. Strange, run out	- - - - -	7
F. H. Trevelthick, c. Mollison, b. Thomson	- - - - -	6
Large, c. Thomson, b. Wheeler	- - - - -	1
W. J. Kenny, b. Duff	- - - - -	6
Plate, R.N., c. Dodds, b. Duff	- - - - -	5
A. C. Reed, c. and b. Duff	- - - - -	3
J. H. Bullock, b. Thomson	- - - - -	4
Capt. Willan, R.N., b. Thomson	- - - - -	3
Byes	- - - - -	8
Wides	- - - - -	2

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#### BOWLING ANALYSIS.

##### VISITORS.

	Balls.	Runs.	Maiden overs.	Wickets.	Wides.
Strange	151	44	4	6	6
Layard	80	31	3	3	2
I. D. Walker	76	40	2	—	—

##### YOKOHAMA CRICKET CLUB.

	Balls.	Runs.	Maiden overs.	Wickets.	Wides.
W. B. Thomson	95	30	6	2	2
Dr. Wheeler	80	41	4	3	—
C. M. Duff	57	18	2	4	—



## THE DETACHED SQUADRON vs Y. C. C.

This match was played yesterday (Oct. 29) and a better day could hardly have been chosen. The ground was in excellent order and the pitch very good. The squadron won the toss and went in about 11.15; it having been previously agreed to play 12 on a side, a full eleven having been selected from the squadron before it was known that Lieut. Winsloe would be able to return from Tokio in time to play. The Visitors were disposed of before tiffin for a total of 73 runs, of which Lieut. Bishop (*Inconstant*) contributed 23 and Mr. Thomas (*Bacchante*) and Lieut. Stopford 12 each.

The Y. C. C. then went in and things did not appear very favourable when the sixth wicket fell for only 35 runs of which 14 had been made by Mr. J. H. Thompson who was stumped by stepping out to an enticing ball. Mr. W.B. Thomson and Mr. F. Strange then contributed 29 and 22 respectively and the innings eventually closed with a total of 95.

After a short rest the Navy again went in, Messrs. Stopford and Thomas also making the highest scores for their side. At 5.15 p.m. the scorer called time when the total stood at 43 for 9 wickets. Both sides fielded remarkably well and with one exception the Y. C. C. must be congratulated on their improvement in this most important feature in the game. The band of H. M. S. *Bacchante* was in attendance and added greatly to the pleasure of those present by its excellent music:

Below we give the full score:—

## THE FLYING SQUADRON vs. YOKOHAMA CRICKET CLUB.

## THE DETACHED SQUADRON. FIRST INNINGS.

Lieut. Corry	<i>Cleopatra</i>	b. Wheeler	.....	9
Lieut. Osborne	<i>Bacchante</i>	b. Thomson	...	0
Mr. Hillyard	do.	b. do.	...	0
Lieut. Bishop	R.M.A.	c. Duff, b. do.	...	23
Mr. Moore	<i>Bacchante</i>	b. do.	.....	0
Mr. Thomas	do.	c. Sutter, b. do.	.....	12
Mr. Christian	do.	b. do.	.....	1
Lieut. Stopford	<i>Cleopatra</i> , not out	.....	.....	12
Lieut. Winsloe	<i>Inconstant</i> , c. and b. Strange	.....	.....	4
Lieut. Royds	<i>Caryfort</i> , b. Thomson	.....	.....	0
Mr. Browning	do.	c. Wheeler, b. Strange	.....	0
Hon. G.A. Hardinge	<i>Bacchante</i> , l.b.w., Thomson	.....	.....	4
Byes 2, Leg Byes 5, Wides 1	.....	.....	.....	8
Total	.....	.....	.....	73

## BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	Balls.	Runs.	Maiden Overs.	Wickets.	Wides.
W. B. Thompson	113	20	8	8	1
Wheeler	70	29	—	2	1
Strange	20	11	—	—	—

## YOKOHAMA CRICKET CLUB.

Mr. Trevethick	..... c. and b. Bishop	.....	5
Dr. Wheeler	..... b. do.	.....	2
Mr. J.H. Thompson	..... b. do.	.....	14
Mr. Mollison	..... b. do.	.....	1
Mr. Duff	..... c. Hillyard, b. do.	.....	2
Mr. W.B. Thomson	c. Moore, b. Christian	.....	29
Mr. Veitch	..... b. Hillyard	.....	1
Mr. Sutter	..... run out	.....	7
Mr. Strange	..... b. Hillyard	.....	22
Mr. Dodds	..... run out	.....	1
Mr. Hearne	..... c. Corry, b. Christian	.....	6
Mr. Melhuish	..... not out	.....	2
Byes 1, Wides 1	.....	.....	2
Total	.....	.....	95

## BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	Balls.	Runs.	Maiden Overs.	Wickets.	Wides.
Hillyard	100	16	13	2	—
Bishop	90	49	3	5	—
Osborne	25	13	2	—	1
Christian	30	14	1	2	—

## THE DETACHED SQUADRON. SECOND INNINGS.

Lieut. Stopford, c. Thompson, b. Strange	.....	11
Lieut. Corry, b. Strange	.....	0
Lieut. Osborne, b. Strange	.....	3
Mr. Hillyard, run out	.....	1
Lieut. Bishop, c. Thompson, b. Strange	.....	4
Mr. Moore, b. Thomson	.....	0
Mr. Thomas, not out	.....	12
Mr. Christian, c. Sutter, b. Strange	.....	1
Lieut. Winsloe, b. Strange	.....	1
Lieut. Royds, b. Thomson	.....	4
Mr. Browning, not out	.....	3
Hon. G. A. Hardinge, to bat	.....	0
Wide balls 3	.....	3
Total	.....	43

## BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	Balls.	Runs.	Maiden Overs.	Wickets.	Wides.
Strange	75	11	6	6	0
Wheeler	85	13	1	0	2
W.B. Thomson	50	16	1	2	1

## THE AUTUMN REGATTA.

At Yokohama, as a rule, the various attempts at getting up regattas from time to time have not proved that signal success which ardent lovers of aquatic sports could desire. They have generally been what may be termed "fame affairs." This has been due mainly to the indifference manifested by the public generally, who either did not care sufficiently for the sport to walk as far as the bund or boathouse or were too deeply immersed in commercial affairs, rather than to any lack of ambition to distinguish themselves among the members of the Rowing Club. The out-of-the-way situation of the old boat-house was also an impediment. It was only large enough to hold very few people; and the English hatoba interfered with the view of those who were compelled to remain downstairs. Taking it all in all it was a most inconvenient and incommensurable place for a rendezvous. And when the Rowing Club were forced to leave it, many were the prognostications that boating in Yokohama was dying a natural death. It proved to be, however, the turning point for the better. A vigorous effort was made to establish the Club on a sounder footing than it had hitherto been; and the result proved what can be done by united action. The difficulty of obtaining a suitable site having been done away with by the Japanese authorities granting a corner of the French hatoba, the committee set to work in earnest. Funds were soon raised and a handsome, commodious, and substantial building erected. The membership became considerably augmented in consequence, and to-day the Yokohama Rowing Club is one of the strongest institutions of its kind in the East.

The presence of the Flying Squadron, two of England's princes, and a competitive crew from Kobe, have given the Autumn meeting of the Yokohama Amateur Rowing Club more interest to the general public than similar events have done for years past.

This is the third time that a friendly contest between crews of the Kobe and Yokohama clubs has taken place. Eleven years ago this month Kobe was represented in an interport race at Yokohama by

1. A. H. Blackwell, 10st. 2lbs.
2. J. Waters, 11st. 5lbs.
3. M. T. B. Macpherson, 10st. 12lbs.
- A. C. Sim, Stroke, 11st. 6lbs.
- D. A. J. Crombie, Cox., 10st. 2lbs.

against whom, to sustain the honours of the Y. A. R. C., were chosen

1. H. O. P. Wright, 11st. 6lbs.
2. E. J. Fraser, 10st. 10lbs.
3. N. J. Hannen, 12st. 4lbs.
- G. Hamilton, Stroke, 11st. 13lbs.
- A. W. Glennie, Cox., 9st. 11lbs.

The contest resulted in favour of Yokohama. It will be seen from the above that two of the crew from Kobe eleven years ago pulled in the interport race to-day.

In April 1876 the Yokohama Club sent a crew to compete for honours in Kobe, consisting of

1. H. J. Snow, 11st. 8lbs.
2. W. A. Towse, 11st. 13lbs.
3. F. G. Davidson, 12st. 4lbs.
- H. C. Litchfield, Stroke, 11st. 9lbs.
- J. Hodgkins, Cox., 9st. 7lbs.

The Kobe crew were

1. J. Henson, 10st. 2lbs.
2. M. T. B. Macpherson, 10st. 13lbs.
3. J. W. Henderson, 10st. 13lbs.
- A. C. Sim, Stroke, 11st. 11lbs.
- A. Vivanti, Cox., 8st. 5lbs.

The previous year Shanghai had sustained a severe defeat in Nagasaki waters in an interport race between crews from the various clubs of Shanghai, Nagasaki, and Kobe, the latter winning the race. To recover lost honours if possible Shanghai sent a strong crew to compete for the interport race at Kobe in 1876, viz:—

1. O. M. Wyatt, 11st. 9lbs.
2. J. Andrew, 13st. 4lbs.
3. R. McKenzie, 13st. 4lbs.
- D. Glass, Stroke, 11st. 6lbs.
- C. Dowdall, Cox., 9st. 4lbs.

Through Mr. Wyatt breaking his oar when near home Kobe were again victorious, Yokohama being out of the race altogether.

Reports of the doings of the team selected to compete in Yokohama this Autumn have reached us from time to time and Kobe has been the favourite crew up to the time of their arrival, when a reaction set in in favour of Yokohama, it being generally considered that the Kobe men were overtrained. Mr. Sim, however, always trains his men fine and were it not for Mr. Macpherson being slightly indisposed, there would scarcely have been any reasonable grounds for the sudden growth in favour of the Yokohama crew, for until the last week or two they have been at "sixes and sevens" at practice.

That all important item in sports, on land or water, the weather, was duly discussed this (Oct. 30) morning, and considerable anxiety was felt lest it should turn out a wet day. Between eight and nine, however, the prospect was in favour of it being fine. The boat house presented a picturesque appearance being decorated with bunting and foliage.

## Committee.

- H. C. LITCHFIELD, *Captain*.  
 LIEUT. C. H. BAYLEY, *Starter and Umpire*.  
 J. RICKETT,  
 LIEUT. C. F. G. LANGDON, " "  
 H. BARRE.  
 A. H. C. HASSELWOOD, *Judge*.  
 LIEUT. A. G. TATE, "  
 YEEND DURE.  
 S. D. HEPBURN.  
 G. C. WOOD.  
 GEO. W. F. PLAYFAIR, *Hon. Secretary*.

## FIRST DAY,

Saturday, 29th, October, 1881.

1.—YACHT RACE.—Time allowance, etc., per N. Y. A. rules. Entrance, \$5. 1st. boat, \$25.

James Donald, <i>Mary</i> , Cutter, White, Red Cross, 19 ft.	.....	1
A. Owston, <i>Bertha</i> , China, Blue, and Red Diagonal, 17 ft.	.....	2
George Watt, <i>Florence</i> , Cutter, Red, White Star 24 ft.	.....	3

The starting place was between the *Pegasus* and *Asia*, and at 9.33½ the gun was fired. The *Mary* had central position

and was the first to get her canvas spread to the wind, the *Bertha*, which had a leeward position, being next to get under weigh. The *Florence* after a slight hitch sped merrily after the *Mary*, the latter rounding the bathing barge first, followed by the *Bertha*, which had the advantage of position of Mr. Owston's boat. After turning the *Mary* hoisted more sail and soon established a long lead. The *Bertha* followed suit and a very even race took place between her and the Chinese rigged boat until turning against the wind when the former took a clear lead and established second position beyond question. The *Mary* completed once round at 11h. 36½m., followed by the *Bertha* three minutes later, the *Florence* not completing her first round till 12h. 4½m. The *Mary* finished her second course at 1h. 19½m.

We may mention that the time given above is not official but taken by one watch; the difference between the arrival of the boats may be taken as correct.

## 2.—INTERPORT FOURS.—One nautical mile

### YOKOHAMA CREW.

#### *Seagull*, Red and Black.

C. E. Fenner, Bow, 11st. 2lbs.	...	...	...
H. C. Litchfield, 2, 12st.	...	...	...
F. Boyes, 3, 11st.	...	...	...
J. T. Boag, Stroke, 11st. 2lbs.	...	...	...
A. H. C. Haselwood, Coxswain 9st. 12lbs.	...	...	...

### Kobe Crew:

#### *Thistle*, Blue and White.

J. Hall, Bow, 11st. 2lbs.	...	...	...
M. T. B. Macpherson, 2, 10st. 12lbs.	...	...	...
D. Fraser, 3, 12st. 6lbs.	...	...	...
A. C. Sim, Stroke, 11st. 8lbs.	...	...	...
H. Hort, Coxswain, 8st. 8lbs.	...	...	...

Kobe started first favourite, the betting being 30 to 20. Still Yokohama had many friends who finally rejoiced in pinning their faith to them. When the gun was fired Mr. Sim got the *Thistle* going first, leading with a stroke of 32 against his opponents 28. When opposite the P. M. wharf Mr. Boag quickened his stroke to 31, and soon got level. This position was maintained until opposite the grand hotel, when Kobe seemed to fag although they kept up the same stroke. Yokohama then put on a beautiful spurt, took the lead and kept it, winning, amid shouts of approval, by three lengths, Mr. Sim slacking off at the finish. Time, 9m. 24½s.

## 3.—MEN-OF-WAR GIGS.—Two nautical miles. 1st. boat, \$20; 2nd. boat, \$10; 3rd. boat, \$5.

<i>Cleopatra</i> , 5 oars, Blue	...	...	...	1
<i>Encounter</i> , 5 oars, White	...	...	...	2
<i>Carysfort</i> , 6 oars, Red	...	...	...	3
<i>Pegasus</i> , 5 oars, Red and White, perpendicular.	...	...	...	0

Considerable disappointment was felt at the *Swatara* and *Bacchante* boats not putting in an appearance. At the start the *Encounter* got a trifling advantage but was soon deprived of it by the *Cleopatra* which kept the lead for half a mile when the *Carysfort* challenged and went to the front, *Pegasus* falling completely in the rear. This position was maintained till rounding the stake boat when a foul occurred between the two leading. Soon after the turn the *Cleopatra* challenged the *Carysfort* and went to the front. The *Encounter* also spurted and succeeded in securing second place which position was held to the finish.

## 4.—JUNIOR FOURS.—One nautical mile. Entrance, \$1 an oar.

### *Plover*, Cardinal Red.

F. Vivanti, Bow	...	...	...	...
A. C. Read, 2	...	...	...	...
W. C. Bing, 3	...	...	...	...
G. J. Melhuish, Stroke	...	...	...	...
F. W. Playfair, Coxswain	...	...	...	...

### *Pewit*, Red & Black.

V. de Bavier, Bow	...	...	...	...
M. Ostermeyer, 2	...	...	...	...
E. Wismer, 3	...	...	...	...
F. Frischling, Stroke	...	...	...	...
S. Hepburn, Coxswain	...	...	...	...

For this event it was difficult to say which had more friends before the start. The red and black got away best, but bow soon caught a "crab" which brought the others level. A good struggle then took place first one boat, and then another getting in front. At the Pacific Mail wharf both were level. Shortly after red put on a spurt and established a lead of half a length. When opposite the grand hotel, the white came with a rush and again got even. The race was still perfectly open when the bow of Hepburn's boat decided the matter by catching another "crab," which allowed the white boat to get half a length in front which was held to the finish. It was a good race throughout, the white pulling a stroke faster than their opponents, Time, 10 m. 41½ s.

## 5.—CHAMPION PAIRS.—One nautical mile. Entrance, \$1 an oar.

### *Widgeon*, Light blue.

J. T. Boag, Bow	...	...	...	...	1
H. C. Litchfield, Stroke	...	...	...	...	...
A. H. C. Haselwood, Coxswain	...	...	...	...	...

### *Mallard*, Red.

G. C. Wood, Bow	...	...	...	...	2
H. J. Gorman, Stroke	...	...	...	...	...
F. W. Playfair, Coxswain	...	...	...	...	...

Mr. Playfair got rather in the rear at the start but soon recovered and with a stroke of 32 to the others' 30 got a length a head. After a quarter of a mile or so, Mr. Litchfield increased his stroke to 32 and Mr. Gorman to 33. The blue, however, soon got to the front and led easily by three lengths past the grand hotel and eventually won an easy race by five lengths in 11m. 5s.

## 6.—CANOE SAILING.—Triangular course, to be pointed out on the day of the race, \$2 per boat.

G. M. Dare, <i>Nautilus</i> , Blue and White Diagonal	1
A. H. Dare, <i>Mome Rath</i> , Chocolate and Maize	0
A. Owston, <i>Vanessa</i> , Red, White and Blue	0

This was not a particularly interesting event, as the wind had died away; and soon after starting Mr. A. H. Dare gave up. The race was eventually won by Mr. G. M. Dare with two minutes to spare, both canoes rolling in at the finish.

## 7.—SHORE GIGS AND WHALE BOATS.—One nautical mile. Time allowance, 12 seconds per oar. Entrance, 50 cents an oar. 1st boat, \$15.

R. S. Marjoram, 7 oars, Green, with name "Exile" in gold	...	...	...	1
Geo. Lemon, 6 oars, White, 5 Stars	...	...	...	2

Only two boats started for this event. No. 3 in Lemon's boat unfortunately broke an oar soon after starting and though another was quickly substituted, the accident gave the other boat a long lead, which was increased without any apparent effort to any number of lengths. An allowance of 12 seconds to Lemon's boat was of no use. Time, 9.24.

## 8.—CHAMPION DOUBLE SCULLS.—DECIDING HEAT.—One Nautical mile. Entrance \$1.00 per man.

C. E. Fenner, Bow	...	...	...	...	1
J. T. Boag, Stroke, <i>Eug</i> , White and Black Cross	...	...	...	...	...
M. H. R. Harris, Bow	...	...	...	...	2
W. W. Till, Stroke, <i>Reeve</i> , Black and White	...	...	...	...	...

Mr. Boag jumped off with the lead with a stroke of 28 to Mr. Till's 30, and gradually increased the gap to quite two lengths,

ahead at the Pacific Mail wharf, rowing only 25 to Mr. Till's 30, and eventually winning the race by over two lengths in 9 minutes and 17 sec.

## 9.—SINGLE SCULLS.—HUGO CHALLENGE CUP.—One Nautical Mile.

C. E. Fenner	...	...	...	...	1
J. T. Boag	...	...	...	...	2
M. Pors	...	...	...	...	3
G. W. F. Playfair	...	...	...	...	0

The water by the time this race was contested was as smooth as a mill pond and a close struggle was anticipated. Mr. Pors started first favourite and with a slight lead when the gun fired which he maintained for half way, when he fell back beaten, Mr. Fenner leading. Mr. Boag who got a long way behind came up well at the finish but could not catch Mr. Fenner who won by a length or more. Time, 9.50.

## SCRATCH FOURS.—½ mile.

Nutter, Bow.	...
Bing, 2.	...
Fischer, 3.	...
Bull, Stroke	...

Four boats started for this event which was won easily.

## SECOND DAY,

Monday, 31st. October, 1881.

THE visit of His Majesty the Mikado to the *Bacchante* to-day materially interfered with the arrangements of the Regatta. The first race for sailing boats was originally set down for 9.30 but had to be postponed to 12 o'clock, a circumstance apparently not quite understood on board the *Asia* for her boats were out and ready to contest the race shortly after nine o'clock.

The weather to-day has been delightful with a breeze just sufficient to make the sailing races interesting, but not enough to interfere with rowing.

The boat house presented a lively appearance, being thronged with spectators, among whom were several visitors from the Detached Squadron.

## 11.—OPEN SAILING BOATS.—Time allowance, 1 minute per foot. Course (about 10 miles) to be fixed on day of Race. Entrance \$3 per boat. 1st. Boat, \$40; 2nd. Boat, \$15; 3rd. Boat, \$5.

Inconstant, 3rd Cutter, Red and White Cross, 30ft.	...	...	...	...	1
M. B. M. S. Co., China, Red and Blue, 28ft.	...	...	...	...	2
Onya, 1st Cutter, 2 standing lugs & jib, White flag, Blue Cross, 28ft. 10in.	...	...	...	...	0
Menzaleh Cutter, Cutter rig, Flag M., 25ft. 6 in.	...	...	...	...	0
Asia, 1st whaleboat, White and Blue Cross, 28ft.	...	...	...	...	0
George Watt, Red and White Star, 24ft.	...	...	...	...	0
Inconstant, 2nd Cutter, Red and White Cross, 42ft.	...	...	...	...	0
Asia, 2nd whaleboat, White and Blue Cross, 28ft.	...	...	...	...	0
Fujiyama, Bermuda rig, 26ft.	...	...	...	...	0

Nine out of the fourteen entries for this event faced the starter and were sent away about 1 p.m. the Japanese boat taking the lead. The course lay from between the boat house and bathing barge round the *Meiji-Maru* on the shore side. The *Inconstant's* third cutter soon passed the Japanese and led the way against the wind towards Treaty

Point, rounding the lightship half-a-mile in front of the M. B. S. S. Co., the others straggling along, and eventually winning the race.

## 12.—INTERPORT PAIRS.—One nautical mile.

D. Fraser, Bow.	...	...	...	...	...
A. C. Sim, Stroke.	...	...	...	...	...
H. Hort, Coxswain.	...	...	...	...	...

Boag, Bow.	...	...	...	...	...
H. C. Litchfield, Stroke.	...	...	...	...	...
A. H. C. Haselwood, Coxswain.	...	...	...	...	...

Considerable interest was manifested in this race, the Yokohama crew having if anything rather more friends than their opponents. At the word "go" Yokohama went away a trifle in front but was soon deprived of that honoured position by Kobe, who pulled 32 to the others 30. At the half mile Kobe was rather more than a length ahead, both rowing 81. The race from this out became a desperate struggle, Kobe still keeping the length ahead till opposite the grand hotel when Yokohama put on a spurt and lessened the distance a quarter, but Mr. Sim quickened up also and again got a length ahead; Yokohama now gradually began to creep up, but too late, the Kobe crew winning by about three-quarters of a length amid shouts of approbation and "Well rowed Sim." Time, 9.14.

### 13.—CLUB FOURS.—One nautical mile. Entrance \$1 an oar.

Petrel, Pink.	
W. Sutter, Bow ... ..	1
F. H. Bull, 2 ... ..	
H. J. Gorman, 3 ... ..	
A. H. Blackwell, Stroke ... ..	
S. Hepburn, Coxswain ... ..	
Curlew, Blue.	
C. E. Churchill, Bow ... ..	2
Jas. Walter, 2 ... ..	
E. Fischer, 3 ... ..	
H. J. Snow, Stroke ... ..	
J. Rickett, Coxswain ... ..	
Vivanti, Bow ... ..	
Read ... ..	3
Bing ... ..	
Melhuish, Stroke ... ..	
Playfair, Cox ... ..	

This race was won easily by Hepburn's boat, a good race ensuing between second and third boats. Time, 8.48.

His Majesty the Mikado left the *Bacchante* about the time this race was started and instead of proceeding direct to the Port Admiral's office, caused his boat to steer for the boat house, passing in front to opposite Messrs. Stillfried and Anderson's, thus having a good view of the race at the finish. His Majesty then turned and proceeded to Benten.

### 14.—MEN-OF-WAR GIGS.—(OFFICERS.)—One nautical mile.

<i>Carysfort</i> , 6 oars ... ..	1
<i>Encounter</i> , 5 oars ... ..	2
<i>Bacchante</i> , 5 oars ... ..	3

Only three boats started. Notwithstanding the encouragement of Prince George as coxswain, the *Bacchante* crew were soon out of the race having a much heavier boat than the others. A good struggle ensued between the *Encounter* and *Carysfort* the latter having six oars to the former's five. The *Carysfort* led best part of the way, but at the P. M. Wharf, *Encounter* spurted and went level and fine struggle ensued the six oars winning by about a yard. Time 10.46½.

### 15.—INTERPORT SINGLE SCULLS.—One nautical mile.

A. C. Sim (Kobe), Rob Roy Tartan ... ..	0
Fenner (Yokohama) ... ..	0

A splendid start was effected and for fifty yards the pair went away at a rattling pace when an unfortunate collision occurred, through Mr. Sim missing a stroke with one hand and running into Mr. Fenner's boat knocked a hole in her when she immediately filled with water. Both stopped, Mr. Fenner and his shell were taken on board the starter's launch, and it was decided to row the race to-morrow.

### 16.—BOATS OF ALL DESCRIPTIONS.—(Compradores' Boats and Outriggers Excepted.)—One nautical mile. No time allowance. En-

trance 50 cents an oar. 1st. Boat, \$20; 2nd. Boat, \$10.

R. S. Marjoram, Gig, 7 oars, Green flag, with name "Exile" in gold ... ..	1
Vigilant, Galley, 8 oars, White and Red Cross ... ..	2
Geo. Lemon, Gig, 6 oars, White, 5 Stars ... ..	3
Menzaleh, Gig, 6 oars, Flag M. ... ..	0
Cleopatra, Gig, 5 oars, Blue ... ..	0

Mr. Marjoram's boat went away with the lead and won by any number of lengths. A good race for second place occurred between Lemon's boat and the *Vigilant* the latter winning by a trifle. Time 9.03½.

### 17.—MEN-OF-WAR CUTTERS.—2 a mile.

<i>Monocacy</i> , Blue and 1 Star, 12 oars ... ..	1
<i>Swatara</i> , Stars and Stripes, 14 oars ... ..	2
<i>Bacchante</i> , Blue and White perpendicular, 10 oars ... ..	3
<i>Carysfort</i> , Red, 10 oars ... ..	0
Asia, 2nd., White and Blue Cross, 12 oars ... ..	0
<i>Swatara</i> , Stars and Stripes, 10 oars ... ..	0
Fujiyama, Blue, Red White Diagonal, 12 oars ... ..	0
Onya, White and Blue Cross, 12 oars ... ..	0
Cleopatra, Blue, 10 oars ... ..	0
Asia, 1st., White and Blue Cross, 12 oars ... ..	0

Ten out of twelve entries faced the starter and on the gun being fired the stars and stripes of the *Swatara* (14) immediately showed in front and after a couple of hundred yards had been covered the single star cutter of the *Monocacy* took second place followed by the *Bacchante*, then the *Swatara*'s ten oar. A collision occurred between two Japanese boats but they soon separated. The stake boats were turned in Indian file, the *Carysfort*'s heavy boat bringing up the rear, immediately in front of which were the three Japanese boats. The race lay between the *Swatara*'s 14 oar and the *Monocacy*'s 12 oar the former having to allow the latter 96 seconds was eventually beaten by the *Monocacy* with 48 seconds to spare. A good race for third place occurred between the *Bacchante* and *Monocacy* 10 oar, the former taking third prize.

### 18.—INTERPORT DOUBLE SCULLS.—One nautical mile.

Reeve.	
Fenner, Bow, } Yokohama, Red and Black ... ..	1
Boag, Stroke, }	
Glangyle.	
M. T. B. Macpherson, Bow, } Kobe, Rob Roy ... ..	2
A. C. Sim, Stroke, }	

Boag immediately pulled away on the gun being fired, establishing a good lead, which was gradually increased both pulling from 28 to 30 to the minute and finally winning easily by seven lengths. Time, 8.43½.

### 19.—CANOE RACE.—PADDLING.—Half a mile. \$2 per boat.

A. C. Sim (Kobe), Rob's Wife, Rob Roy Tartan ... ..	1
M. T. B. Macpherson (Kobe), No Use, Blue & White ... ..	2
W. C. Bing, Furt, Red ... ..	0

This event was won by Mr. Sim after an apparently hard struggle with Mr. Macpherson. Mr. Bing stopped soon after starting.

## PORTUGUESE BANQUET.

TODAY (31st. ult.) being the forty-third anniversary the birth of His Majesty the King of Portugal the event was celebrated by a banquet at the Portuguese consulate.

The godown at No. 95 was tastefully decorated with flowers, flags, and ever-greens. The band of the Imperial Engineering College at Tokio was in attendance and played a choice programme of operatic and classical music.

Punctually at 12 noon the following Portuguese subjects responded to the invitations

which had been issued by Mr. DE BAVIER the Acting Consul for Portugal:—Messrs. E. Pereira (Vice-Consul), F. dos Remedios, G. dos Remedios, C. Marques, V. Barradas, A. Barradas, A. Correa, U. Gordo, G. Gordo, P. F. da Silva (*Argus*), F. da Silva, J. M. Ega, da Silva, J. da Silva, J. Collago, S. Severim, J. Fonseca, J. Rodrigues, F. V. Ribeiro. Other nationalities were represented by Messrs. Jouslayn (Consul for France), G. W. Hill, J. G. Holland, &c.

About 12.15 the acting consul for Portugal took the chair, the guests assembled round the festive board, and did ample justice to the good things provided.

Mr. DE BAVIER, amidst much applause, in a brief address proposed the health of His Faithful Majesty the King of Portugal. This was heartily received by the loyal subjects of that sovereign, the band playing their national anthem.

Mr. PEREIRA responded, and in appropriate language proposed the toast of H. E. the Governor of Macao, who is also Portuguese minister in Japan.

Mr. C. MARQUES who spoke in Portuguese proposed in feeling terms the health of Mr. DE BAVIER the acting consul to whom he paid a high tribute for the honourable and conscientious manner in which he performed his duties, and protected the interests of the nation he represented.

Mr. DE BAVIER then rose and amidst evident emotion spoke as follows:—

GENTLEMEN:—I am very sensible to the toast which Mr. Marques has proposed in my favour and to which you have so heartily responded. This is the second time that I have been honoured with the request to take charge of the Portuguese consulate in Yokohama, yet I have not filled these duties long enough to be able to pride myself with any particular merits in connection therewith, but I may assure you that the determination is not wanting on my part to serve to the utmost of my power the interests entrusted to me and that I only want occasions to prove it. The greatness of your nation was in former times due to the undaunted courage, adventurous spirit, and enterprise of its people; to-day it is due to their industry skill and economy; for where is a country which without great armies and navies, without great debt and taxes has managed to maintain a more respected position in the concert of European nations? It is the prosperity of Portugal, the wisdom of its institutions, due to the activity and sagacity of its people which has effected this. Gentlemen, I feel that we out here should all unite to increase commercial relations with a country so eminently well disposed to assist our efforts. We live in a country with a great commercial future before us; but we must pave the way now to be able to reap when the time comes when this country will be open to foreign competition and we shall be put in direct contact with the producers and consumers.

Gentlemen, a good deal has been said against merchant consuls but who is better able to understand and to foster the commercial interests of his country than a merchant consul? I call upon you to help me in proving this gentlemen. I thank you for having drank my health and in response assure you of my zeal to defend your interests in every way, and to promote and develop the commercial relations, between Portugal and Japan by every means at my disposal, and solicit your assistance to this end.

Mr. JOUSLAYN (Consul for France) addressed the company in French and said that his colleague Mr. DE BAVIER in taking charge of the Portuguese Consulate had done him the honour to ask his assistance, as an old magistrate, in the judicial administration of the colony. He had accepted the functions of assessor with pleasure and in that capacity he took part in the present patriotic fête. He rejoiced greatly to celebrate the anniversary of the birth of their august sovereign and heartily thanked his colleague for associating him in this tribute of honour to a prince friendly to France. His Majesty in receiving their wishes and those of His Excellency the Minister for Portugal in Japan has heard with satisfaction of the good order and harmony which prevails amongst them, and which are due in a great measure to the wisdom and spirit of conciliation displayed by their consuls Messrs. DE BAVIER and PEREIRA; but it is to them all as intelligent and honest labourers that the honour and the profit of this happy situation mainly belong. The spirit of concord which unites them and the life of labour adopted by them all has established their fortune. He urged them to continue to follow that course of conduct, for it is that alone which can assure the success of the work so happily commenced. He then called upon them to drink to the "Prosperity of the Portuguese Community."

Mr. P. F. DA SILVA was called upon to respond and spoke as follows:—

I am called upon by the too partial voice of my fellow residents to respond to the toast which the representative of the French Republic has just proposed.

As loyal subjects of His Majesty the king of Portugal we have the greatest pleasure in assembling here, in response to the courteous invitation of His Majesty's nearest representative in Japan, to celebrate with fitting honour the forty-third birthday of our King Don Luiz.

Exiles as we are in one sense, we do not forget the bonds which unite us to the mother country, and the nationality which extends its invaluable protection to us, in this distant land; and if as a community we seek to be peaceful men, quietly pursuing our paths in life, and more or less absorbed in the preponderating influences and interests of other countries, we yet never forget our distinctive nationality; and take pride in our representatives in Japan, of whom our respected consul is the chief.

Prompted by these sentiments, I take the opportunity to assure our consul that in the performance of the responsible duties he has undertaken, he may rely upon the faithful support of the Portuguese community, confident that in the conduct of negotiations which frequently arise between the representatives of European powers and the government of Japan—negotiations requiring the exercise of delicacy, prudence and extreme patience—he will receive every assistance from them calculated to further the cause in hand.

This seems a fitting moment for the introduction of a subject of much interest to my fellow residents. I allude to the long intervals which elapse between the visits to this country of His Excellency the Governor of Macao who is also the envoy accredited by the King of Portugal to Japan.

The intercourse of Portuguese with Japan dates back to a very early period; and the relations between the two countries, never having been disturbed by grave misunderstanding would assuredly be improved by an

occasional visit of the Portuguese envoy to pay his respects in person to His Imperial Majesty the Mikado. Speaking for my countrymen I can assure His Excellency of a hearty welcome in Japan.

It is possible these sentiments may be conveyed to His Excellency by our excellent host and consul, and that at no distant day, we may have the satisfaction of seeing the King's plenipotentiary in this country.

I have already trespassed too far upon your time and patience.

In the name of the community whose health and prosperity has been so cordially proposed and honoured, I thank the worthy representative of the French Republic for the kind sentiments he has enunciated and of which we have a sincere appreciation and regard, which we can best show by our acceptance of the following toast, the "Health and Prosperity of Mr. Jouslayn the esteemed consular representative of France in Yokohama."

Mr. JOUSLAYN responded in appropriate terms.

Mr. HELLAND said he was an old, probably the oldest European resident of the East. He said he had known many Portuguese both in Macao and in Hongkong and had often admired their active, industrious habits. He called upon them to drink to the prosperity of the friendly nation which gave them shelter. He said that in proposing this toast he spoke not in a political sense. On such an occasion he desired to set aside politics and to bear witness only to the generous hospitality displayed by the Japanese to foreigners.

The toast being duly honoured

Mr. G. dos REMEDIOS said he felt sure every Portuguese present must be sincerely grateful to Mr. Helland for the kind terms in which he had spoken of their nationality and called upon them to drink his health with acclamation.

Mr. HILL seconded the proposal of Mr. dos Remedios and spoke in high terms of the generous hospitality he had witnessed amongst the Japanese, and hoped that in time to come there would be yet a closer unity between Japanese and foreigners.

Mr. J. M. Eça da SILVA returned thanks on behalf of the Portuguese community for the hospitality they had received from their acting consul.

Mr. HELLAND in responding to the toast proposed prosperity to the Portuguese colony and referred to the memory of one, the mention whose name never failed to touch the heart of every Portuguese—their revered poet Camoens.

The toast was warmly received and responded to by Mr. P. F. da SILVA who recited some well known lines by Camoens.

Mr. HELLAND then addressed the company in Portuguese and apologised for speaking so often, which, as a stranger he felt he had no right to do. He called upon them all to drink the health of the "Absent Ones" amongst whom he included their wives, mothers, sisters, and all who were near and dear to them.

Mr. PEREIRA responded.

Mr. HELLAND then briefly proposed the toast of "Prosperity to Portugal."

Mr. F. dos REMEDIOS, proposed "Prosperity to Denmark" of which nation Mr. De Bavier is Consul-General.

Mr. PEREIRA then invited all present to attend the inauguration of the new Portuguese Club, which would take place at 9 p.m. this evening.

Mr. C. MARQUES proposed the health of Mr. Hill which was heartily responded to.

Mr. E. PERPETUA then proposed "The Press" which was received with much applause.

Mr. P. F. SILVA (editor of the *Argus*) returned thanks on behalf of the paper he represented and briefly stated the line of policy under which it was his endeavour to conduct it.

Mr. SCHROEDER (*Japan Herald*) also responded and, as a German, begged to offer on behalf of that community, its good wishes towards the sovereign the anniversary of whose birth they were assembled to commemorate.

Mr. VAWDREY (*Japan Gazette*) also responded and in the course of his address referred to the blessings of a free press and hoped the time was not far distant when the government of Japan would remove the restrictions under which the press of that country still laboured.

The proceedings then terminated.

#### OPENING OF THE PORTUGUESE CLUB.

THE Portuguese Club is now an accomplished fact. When its establishment was first mooted the idea was scorned by many as Utopian and few were inclined to believe that it was within the range of possibility for a community so small as that composed of the Portuguese residents to support such an institution amongst themselves. Nothing daunted, the projectors set to work in real earnest and bravely encountered whatever difficulties lay in their path. Their praiseworthy efforts have been crowned with success and last night (31st. ult.) we were called upon to witness the inauguration of the first Portuguese Club in this north pole of civilization.

The Club house is No. 158 on the Creek. It is a small but compact building, well adapted for the purpose to which it is applied. On the ground floor is a well equipped billiard and bar room; up-stairs are dining and reading rooms all of which are neatly furnished. The decorations last evening reflected great credit on the committee. The verandah and entrance were festooned with Japanese lanterns of various colours and designs which had a very pretty effect. On the walls of the billiard room in large, well formed letters, composed of flowers and evergreens was the legend "*Prosperidade ao Clubo Portuguez, 31 de Outubro.*" In the reading room the loyalty of the members of the young club was expressed by the words "*Viva Don Luiz I.*" made of the same materials; whilst their cosmopolitan sentiments were emblematically displayed by the national ensign of Portugal being intertwined in every conceivable part of the building with the flags of various European nations, America and Japan. The band of the Koku Dai-gaku was in attendance and enlivened the proceedings by playing a choice programme.

The following gentlemen were present:—Messrs. De Bavier (acting consul for Portugal), Pereira (vice-consul for do.), Jouslayn (consul for France), Carcano (consul for Italy), Aranguren (consul for Spain), Negré, Salabelle, Falque, Wagen, Levy, Gillet, Oppenheimer, C. V. Marques, E. J. Marques, F. T. dos Remedios, G. M. dos Remedios, J. M. de Sá e Silva, F. R. da Silva, E. Perpetua, J. J. Rodrigues, P. F. da Silva, F. da Roza, A. Barradas, V. Barradas, C. M. da Silva, H. Collins, R. N. St. John, Dr. Whitley, J. S. Severim, A. Meier, and J. de Fonseca.



About 9.15 p.m. the members and their guests assembled in the reading room where "the cup which cheers" was poured out with a liberal hand.

Mr. de BAVIER formally declared the club open and addressed the company as follows:—

GENTLEMEN, in wishing long life and prosperity to the Portuguese club I only regret that I must employ a foreign tongue to do so. English is not my native language but I adopt it because I believe you all understand it.

The establishment of a Portuguese club has been hailed by me with joy. It shows that the patriotism, union, activity of mind, and energy, which so greatly distinguish the Portuguese at home is alive amongst those residents in this place, and that they hold together for the maintenance in this far away country of the Portuguese fame, consciousness of the obligation linked to every Portuguese by the glorious history of that ancient nation not to detract from the high character of his forefathers.

The obligations which devolve upon ancient nations with a great past like yours are far greater than upon those of more recent formation. To the latter the saying cannot be applied:—"He is a much descended descendant of a noble race." Therefore gentlemen I call upon you to continue in your worthy efforts to unite to uphold the Portuguese name through your conduct and self respect to which a well placed pride in your descent should help to stimulate you.

For my part, I may assure you that as I have the honour, of which I am proud, to represent Portugal in a consular capacity I shall hold high the flag of that country, conscious of its past and of the liberty enjoyed under its institutions in the present. And I beg to assure you that no effort nor sacrifice shall be wanting on my part to assert the rights and the privileges of Portuguese subjects in Japan and to promote their interests to the utmost of my power and my ability.

Gentlemen I invite you to drink "Long Life and Prosperity to the Portuguese Club."

This address was received with prolonged applause and the toast was drank with "three times three."

Mr. E. PERPETUA secretary to the new club responded and on behalf of the members thanked Mr. De Bavier for his good wishes. He said they were all deeply grateful for the kind interest he took in their welfare and for the zeal he displayed in the discharge of his duties as the representative of their sovereign. He concluded by expressing a hope that Mr. De Bavier would not only become an honorary member of the club, but would also consent to be its chief patron and protector.

Comte CARCANO, consul for Italy, proposed "Health and prosperity to the president and members of the club."

Mr. OPPENHEIMER congratulated the projectors on the success of their praiseworthy endeavours and hoped the institution would enjoy a long and uninterrupted career of prosperity.

Mr. PEREIRA, president of the club briefly responded in appropriate terms.

This terminated the inauguration ceremony. An adjournment was then made for the billiard room, where severed enthusiastic votaries of Terpsichore indulged in the "light fantastic," which was kept up with much spirit for some time.

The supper was served at about 11 o'clock. Several toasts were proposed and responded to with enthusiasm by both members and

non-members. Several of the latter were so much pleased that they at once volunteered to join the club.

The admission of foreigners shows the cosmopolitan feelings of its promoters and we trust the club will prove a means of increasing that harmony and good feeling which, in a place like this, ought to exist amongst members of all nationalities.

In the afternoon several gentlemen visited the club who were invited but were unable to be present in the evening.

#### AMATEUR PERFORMANCE AT THE GAIETY THEATRE.

SOME fifteen or twenty years ago it was a very common occurrence for people at home to lament the decline of the drama; and indeed, to tell the honest truth, the stage, at that time, was in a bad way in the "old country," for Dion Boucicault and play writers of that stamp were flooding it with their sensational trash. When the "Colleen Bawn" was first put on the "boards" at the Adelphi it caused a perfect *furor* and had an unprecedented run for some four hundred nights. But what, after all, was there in it that attracted so much attention? Not any brilliant literary merits in the matter of delineation of character or sparkling dialogue, except, perhaps, such little as may be found in the rôles of *Myles NaCoppaleen* or *Father Tom*, but solely and simply a novelty in scenic art which it presented. Real water and a "sensation header" were what people had never seen before and the *Colleen* accordingly became the rage and a morbid taste was thus excited and pandered to which might well excite adverse criticism. Ultra-religionists denounced plays and play-actors with the utmost fervour of fanaticism, and consigned them to a climate very much warmer than that of either India, China, or Japan; and play-goers of the old school who believed in the "legitimate" drama shook their heads and talked sadly and fondly of their young days when Kean and Macready were in the zenith of their fame. They wanted Shakspeare but were flatly told by an experienced manager that Shakspeare meant empty benches, bankruptcy, and ruin.

Well, this state of things could not last for ever; a reaction set in and the sensation mania became a thing of the past. To writers such as Wills, Gilbert, F. C. Burnand and H. J. Byron must be awarded the credit of purifying public taste by supplying the stage with dramas and burlesques of sterling merit, which at length proved "metal more attractive" than "leaps over precipices," "headers," "explosions" and "houses on fire."

Stern moralists may look grave and the pulpit may rave, storm, and thunder as much as it pleases but the fact remains that the Anglo-Saxon race in general and the Yokohama community in particular are essentially theatrical in their proclivities. And it is well that such is the case, for:—

"Boldly I dare say  
There have been more by us in some one play  
Laugh'd into wit and virtue, than have been  
By twenty tedious lectures drawn from sin  
And foppish humours; hence the cause doth rise!  
Men are not won by th' ears, so well as eyes."

Seldom indeed has a Yokohama audience been invited to enjoy a richer theatrical treat than that provided for them on the evening of Wednesday, the 2nd instant; and still more seldom have the members of the Amateur Dramatic Club acquitted themselves so

creditably in the representation of so difficult a piece. The entertainment was in all respects a triumphant success. The bill of fare consisted of "£100,000," a comedy in three acts by H. J. BYRON, the casts being as follows:—

JOE BARLOW - - -	Mr. Marshall Bazing.
GERALD GOODWIN - -	Mr. W. C. Gasper.
PENNYTHORNE - - -	Mr. J. L. O. Eytan.
FLUKER - - - - -	Mr. G. H. Scidmore.
PFYFINCH - - - - -	Mr. F. V. Samuels.
MAJOR BLACKSHAW - -	Mr. F. S. Morse.
SIR RUMSEY WATERS -	Mr. C. Cottell.
CHARKEE - - - - -	Mr. T. L. Brower.
GIBBONS - - - - -	Mr. C. E. Churchill.
MRS. BARLOW - - -	
ALICE - - - - -	

As the play is new to this part of the world a synopsis of the plot may not be out of place so we will at once set to work to give one so far as memory serves us.

The curtain rises on the parlour behind *Joe Barlow's* shop. *Joe Barlow*, by the way, is a well-to-do retail grocer and provision dealer, or something of that sort. He has feathered his nest very well, but like *Oliver Twist*, would like to have "some more." Tea, cheese, and bacon when sold by the pound never bring in large sums at a time, and so *Joe* accordingly speculates, with what result the sequel will show. *Mrs. Barlow* is discovered engaged in the prosaic occupation of darning stockings. She is a plain speaking matter-of-fact old soul who, as her husband says, has "got no specklelation in her eye." She in no way approves of *Joe's* frequent visits to the city and tells him so plumply and flatly. *Mrs. Barlow* has a rough exterior, is inclined to wear the unwhisperables, but has her heart in the right place nevertheless. When first we make their acquaintance this worthy old couple are somewhat exercised in mind as to their niece *Alice* who lives with them and who, it appears, has a soul above tea, cheese and bacon however much she may be inclined occasionally to partake of those luxuries. They would like her to be married, and the young lady herself has no particular objection to enter into the bonds of holy matrimony. *Pennythorne*, a livery stable keeper, is desperately smitten with *Alice* and would marry her at once—if she would only have him; but when did the "course of true love" ever run smooth? There was a rival in the field of whom *Pennythorne* knew little and cared less. Lawyers tell us "possession is nine points of the law" and accordingly *Gerald Goodwin* had an immense advantage over any other rival that might enter the field, for he lived as a lodger under the same roof with the object of his boyish love. This same *Gerald Goodwin* was a well conducted, good principled young fellow who perhaps had not as large a stock of that useful article commonly called moral courage as would have been useful to him in his way through the world. He had been unemployed for some time and was horribly poor. He makes his appearance in a frightfully threadbare suit of clothes, and boots not quite as new as they once were. He was also decidedly guilty of sins of omission in the matter of linen. But amidst the "frowns of fortune" his pride and self-respect did not desert him. He overheard a conversation between *Mr. and Mrs. Barlow* in which the latter expressed a determination to turn him out before his small stock of ready money was exhausted. *Joe* pleaded eloquently and successfully in his behalf and *Mrs. Barlow* consented to postpone the ejectment *sine die*. But her change of purpose came too late. *Gerald* had heard what had passed and resolved to seek lodgings elsewhere. *Alice* disturbs

him in the midst of a soliloquy on his hard fate. He informs her of his intention of leaving and, being completely thrown off his guard, reveals the secret of his love and she, equally unguarded, makes him a present of her hand and heart:—

"In maiden confidence she stood,  
Though mantled in her cheek the blood,  
And told her love with such a sigh  
Of deep and hopeless agony."

And then:—

"Their lips drew near, and clung into a kiss.  
A long, long kiss, a kiss of youth and love,"

Whilst thus pleasantly engaged Joe pops in on them; then comes the usual round of apologies, confessions and promises "never to do it any more," &c., &c. Joe forgives them, joins their hands, does the "heavy father" to perfection, gives his consent to the engagement, but tells them they had better say nothing about it to the "Missis" for the present.

Pennythorne now enters on the scene and a striking contrast is presented between an honest high-minded gentleman without money, and a vulgar snob whose pockets are well supplied, the latter being as repulsive as the former is attractive. He proposes to Alice, is indignantly rejected by her and then shows himself in his true character.

Whilst smarting under the sting of a refusal Mr. Fluker, a fussy little lawyer, rushes in and, mistaking Pennythorne for Gerald Goodwin, tells him that his uncle is no more and that he is heir to £100,000. Pennythorne grows delirious with joy, summons all the household to tell them of his good fortune when Goodwin comes in with them, and the mistake made by Fluker is cleared up. Pennythorne faints away, Goodwin receives the news of his being a rich man calmly, and whilst his friends are congratulating him the curtain descends on act I.

In the second act the scene is changed to a room in the house of Gerald Goodwin. Although the news of his uncle's death is not confirmed he has entered on the enjoyment of his wealth. Money brings friends, but the friends which have fallen to Goodwin's lot do not seem to be the kind of companions best suited for a young man just entering life. The three we are introduced to are Charker, an accomplished swindler, who starts bubble companies and who has an eye on Goodwin's £100,000 and means to have his share of it; Sir Rumsey Waters, a fast young baronet who is probably another pigeon to be plucked by Charker, and Major Blackshaw a man not really dishonest but who has allowed himself to become a sort of tool of Charker. Under the influence of this precious trio Goodwin has somewhat fallen from his first estate; he loves Alice as fondly as ever and would only too gladly marry her but his pride will not allow him to make any advances, especially as he has treated her so shabbily. She has not, and cannot, forget him. In her infatuation she comes to his house and surprises him in the midst of a quarrel he is having with Major Blackshaw for having spoken lightly of her. A reconciliation is almost on the point of being made between them, when Joe enters and leads her away. Goodwin and his friends then betake themselves to champagne and whilst so enjoying themselves Fluker enters and communicates to Goodwin the startling intelligence that his uncle who was supposed to be dead is still alive and has just arrived from India. The tables are then completely turned. His aristocratic friends cold-shoulder him and Pennythorne with whom he has dealt largely for horses and carriages grossly insults him.

At this juncture Alice (who had not left the house) rushes in, at once understands the situation and generously offers her fortune—amounting to some £4000 or £5000—of the existence of which Goodwin had previously known nothing—to her not over constant lover, who declines to accept money from the woman he has wronged.

In the third act the curtain once more rises on Joe's back parlour. Since last we looked in on this snug little room evil days have fallen on the honest vendor of cheese and tallow candles. He has burnt his fingers in the game of speculation and not only the savings of his life time, but even Alice's fortune, which he held in trust, has been swallowed up in Charker's bubble company. A writ of execution is impending, and they do not know how soon the bailiffs will take possession.

Pennythorne, who has also singed his wings, is if anything more ardent in his endeavours to effect a marriage between Alice and himself. He is not aware of the ill luck which has befallen the Barlows or he would not be quite so urgent in proffering his affections. Joe is in a similar state of ignorance concerning Pennythorne's affairs and wrings from Alice a most reluctant consent to become the wife of the man of horses. The latter, in the exuberance of his joy, rushes off to Doctor's Commons to procure the license and arrives at that establishment just in time to find it closed. On his return to Joe's house he finds the bailiffs in possession and accordingly backs out of his engagement with Alice, much to her delight. As he is in the act of taking his leave a sheriff's officer walks in and marches him off to a debtor's prison and he is seen and heard of no more. "When things are at their worst they sometimes mend" is an old and true saying, and so it proved with more than one of the *dramatis personæ*.

At this critical moment a servant enters with a letter for Goodwin, who most opportunely happens to be present, for the purpose of taking a final leave of Alice prior to his departure for either India or Australia. He fears to open the letter lest it may contain more ill news but Alice, with true womanly curiosity, reads it for him. He then learns to his surprise that his uncle's young wife has eloped with Charker and the uncle is anxious to make amends to his nephew for his former neglect and harsh treatment. Fluker again appears and confirms the good news, adding that the infamous Charker has been arrested at Dover. All thenceforth goes merrily as a marriage bell, though a great deal is left to the imagination of the audience in the way of supplying details. The happy lovers are united and Joe's business once more flourishes.

Where all did well it is perhaps invidious to particularise individuals. Nevertheless *fiat justitia, ruat cælum* or, more plainly "honour to whom honour is due." Mr. Marshall Bazing's Joe Barlow was capital. His ease and self possession on the stage were wonderful. His rendering of the character of an honest, simple-minded tradesman who believed all men to be as guileless as himself was most life-like and he was equally successful both in the humorous and pathetic veins of a long and difficult part. Mr. Bazing is certainly an actor far above the average of those usually to be met with amongst amateurs. Mr. W. C. Gasper as Gerald Goodwin showed great promise of future excellence. For a young actor he did remarkably well. He had evidently studied his part most carefully but seemed somewhat diffident in its enunciation; at least this is

the only reason we can assign for his being so cool and unsympathetic towards such a charming, fascinating lady love. The words of affection came from his lips freely enough, the spirit, enthusiasm—or whatever it may be called—to warm them into life was wanting. What is required is a little more self confidence. If in future he will endeavour to identify himself more closely with his part, and be less concerned about the audience his delineation of character will be very effective. Such a low-lived, vulgar-minded character as Pennythorne is a thankless part for anyone to play, as it is one with which no audience can sympathise. It is impossible to speak too highly of the careful painstaking manner in which it was rendered by Mr. Eyton. He "suited the action to the word and the word to the action," and gave a most amusing representation of an unscrupulous livery stable keeper who lives principally by his wits. Mr. Seidmore as Fluker was a genuine specimen of an old fashioned lawyer. Major Blackshaw found a good representative in Mr. F. S. Morse, and the rôles of Pyefinch, Charker, Sir Rumsey Waters, and Gibbons were all well played by Messrs. Samuels, Cottell, Brower, and Churchill, but do not require any special mention.

On the principle of the "first being last and the last first" we have delayed making mention of the actresses until now. But how, or in what terms shall we speak of the ladies to whom were entrusted the parts of Mrs. Barlow and Alice: or how do justice to the rare histrionic abilities they undoubtedly displayed? The lady who played the former gave a splendid delineation of a careful housewife who kept an eye to the main chance, who tried and sometimes succeeded in holding her lord and master in subjection and, who like most of us, was always wise after the event. Compared with the rest of the characters hers was of minor importance, but with much tact and skill she infused a great deal of dry humour into it which gained her many well earned rounds of applause. With respect to the charming heroine of the drama our powers of criticism are completely non-plussed. No words of ours can accurately describe how breathlessly she held the audience and sustained their interest from her first entrance until her last exit: she evidently threw herself heart and soul into her part and every word and action of her's was both graceful and natural, without any undue straining after effect. That her efforts were appreciated was fully attested by the unanimous call she received at the close, and still more so by the showers of bouquets with which she was greeted.

Like most of H. J. Byron's plays there was not much scope for scenic effect in the one represented on Wednesday night; but it was none the less neatly put on the boards and most faithfully produced under the able superintendence of Mr. C. B. Bernard the stage manager, who also received a call before the curtain in recognition of his praiseworthy efforts.

The house was well filled from head to foot by an appreciative audience who repeatedly testified their approval by rapturous applause.

The Japanese imperial naval band was in attendance and played a selection of favourite airs &c., between the acts.

Rumour has it that another drama is in preparation and will shortly be produced.

# RECEPTION BY H. E. THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND MADAME INOUE.

A LARGE number of guests responded to the invitations issued by His Excellency the Minister for foreign affairs and Madame Inouye at the official residence in Tokio last evening (3rd. instant), on the occasion of the birthday of His Majesty the Mikado.

The official residence is a new building situate in Ura-Kasumigaseke, the front overlooking the Hibaya parade ground, and was used for the first time yesterday. The architecture is composite, but the external appearance is imposing and handsome; and when illuminated by coloured lamps and gas transparencies the effect rather adds to the shapely proportions of the building. To the right of the entrance is another large building for the accommodation of the staff of the foreign office, and where all business is to be transacted.

The interior of the residence has been well planned, a large entrance hall with cloak room to the right, leads to a spacious corridor upon which several rooms open. The ball room was used for the reception of visitors by the distinguished host and hostess. It is perhaps a trifle small; and the reflection is unavoidable that the number of rooms might have been lessened with much advantage to the remainder. With this exception, there is nothing to be desired, for the apartments are spacious, perfectly ventilated, and decorated in a style that does great credit to the architect, who has succeeded admirably in the judicious use of soft tints sparingly yet happily brought out with gold. The upper floor is approached by a broad staircase, and the drawing room opens by means of French windows upon a terrace with handsome balustrade commanding an uninterrupted view of the spacious parade ground. The residence seems in every respect complete, and the architect is to be congratulated on the result of his labours. The plans and design were, we understand, prepared by Mr. Capelletti under whose supervision the building was constructed.

Punctually at nine o'clock guests assembled in large numbers, and half an hour later the rooms, corridors, and terraces were filled. Members of the supreme council, ministers of departments, and officials of the higher rank, officers of the army and navy, and private citizens, mingled with members of the *corps diplomatique*, naval officers, consuls, and many residents of foreign nationalities, many ladies from Tokio and Yokohama being present, some of their costumes contrasting, not in all cases favourably (we beg the ladies' pardons) with the soft material and delicate colouring of the native dress of the Japanese lady whose presence at public entertainments in large numbers is a pleasing instance of modern change. Dancing was begun about ten o'clock, the band playing several favourite quadrille, valse and other airs. At half past ten there was a display of fireworks in the open space in front of the terrace, to view which large crowds assembled outside the railed enclosure. There are few pyrotechnists anywhere equal to the Japanese; and the manufacturer of the varied devices in ever-changing colours and brilliancy shown last evening would realise an immense fortune in Paris or London. At eleven the supper rooms were thrown open; and when the great demand is considered, the arrangements, like the viands and wines, were all

that could be wished. To secure the convenience of his guests the minister had a special train in readiness to leave for Yokohama at midnight, but as many seemed unwilling to leave until the last moment its departure was delayed fully half an hour.

With departure of the Yokohama guests the rooms rapidly thinned, and a most enjoyable evening was brought to a close.

The considerate hospitality exercised by the ministers of Japan deserves the highest consideration. These receptions, beginning with the kindly courteous welcome of the host and hostess, afford opportunities for friendly social intercourse of Japanese and foreigner which should, and undoubtedly do, tend to strengthen those feelings of mutual regard and respect which we hope before long will form the solid foundation of a lasting friendship. To this good object His Excellency Inouye will have the gratification of knowing that he has been one of the chief contributors.

## NIPPON RACE CLUB.

AUTUMN MEETING, 1881.

### FIRST DAY.

Friday, 4th. November.

THE first day of the races opened with a prospect of a successful meeting excepting perhaps the dubious state of the weather. The entries throughout were small, but nevertheless some excellent sport was anticipated. A Japanese band was present to-day and succeeded in enlivening the intervals between the events. We have to record with regret that the good old pony, *Oyama*, utterly collapsed in his half mile, having gone very lame in the near fore leg.

1.—THE GRIFFINS' PLATE.—Value \$150. For Japan ponies that have never run in a race in Tokio or Yokohama. Weight as per scale. Five furlongs. Entrance, \$10

The Gunbakioku's Yamabuki	...10st. 4lbs...	1
Mr Kawanishi's Palefroi	...10st. 4lbs...	2
Mr Geoghegan's Heartsease	...10st. 4lbs...	3
Mr Fujisaki's Kanasawa	...10st. 8lbs...	0
Mr Fujisaki's Matsushima	...10st. 4lbs...	0

Nearly half an hour was wasted at the post in a vain endeavour to get the ponies away on something like even terms, and when the flag did fall *Heartsease* was left at the post and the favourite *Yamabuki*, had a good seventy yards lead before *Heartsease* got fairly going. When he did get on his legs, however, he made the best possible use of them and rapidly cut down one pony after another until he reached second place; but there was no overhauling the favourite, who won hard held by several lengths, *Palefroi* getting second down the straight. Time, 1.24.

2.—THE CRITERION STAKES.—For China ponies. Weight as per scale. Winners in Hongkong, China, or Japan, 1880 and 1881, —of one race, 5 lbs. extra; of two or more races, 10 lbs. extra. *Bond fide* griffins, 7 lbs. allowance. Once round. Entrance, \$5.

Mr Hugo's Sunrise (late Flick)	...10st. 11lbs...	1
Capt. George's Stiff Wind	...10st. 2lbs...	2
Mr Peacock's Centaur	...10st. 8lbs...	0
Capt. George's Basuto	...11st. 5lbs...	0
Mr Durand's Victor	...10st. 2lbs...	0
Mr Fitz-henry's Blue Ruin	...10st. 5lbs...	0
Mr Phillippus' Dunn Brown	...10st. 8lbs...	0

*Sunrise* started first favourite for this event and jumping off with the lead kept it hard held all the way to the finish, passing the post two lengths in advance of *Centaur* and *Stiff Wind* who ran a dead heat for second place. Time, 2.14.

3.—THE HALF-BRED MAIDEN PLATE.—Value \$125. For Half-bred ponies that have never won a race in Tokio or Yokohama. Weight as per scale. Five furlongs. 5 entries or no race. Entrance, \$10.

There not being sufficient entries for this event, it did not come off.

4.—THE RIKUGUNSHO CUP.—Presented. For Japan ponies. Weight as per scale. Half a mile. Entrance, \$5.

Col. Sagara's Shiratorigataki	...10st. 2lbs...	1
Mr Hugo's Katerfelto	...10st. 4lbs...	2
Mr Buchanan's Oyama	...10st. 2lbs...	3

The result of this event was unlooked for, the old pony *Oyama* being considered too good for Col. Sagara's chesnut. The latter, however, had many friends. At the start *Oyama* got a length in advance, but was speedily challenged by *Shiratorigataki* and gave up the lead at the trees, shutting up quite unexpectedly and pulling up dead lame. *Katerfelto* made a rush when near home, but was never dangerous, the representative of the Japanese stable winning with comparative ease. The time, 63 seconds, was rather slow *Oyama's* time has generally been 60 to 61.

5.—THE NAVY AND VISITORS' CUP.—Presented. For China ponies. Weight as per scale. Three-quarters of a mile. Entrance, \$10.

Mr Hugo's Sunset	...10st. 5lbs...	1
Mr Geoghegan's Chief Mongolian	10st. 11lbs...	2
Mr Phillippus' Dunn Brown	...10st. 8lbs...	3
Mr Peacock's Skedaddle	...10st. 2lbs...	0
Mr Durant's Dartmoor	...10st. 5lbs...	0

*Skedaddle* and *Sunset* probably had more backers for this race than any of the other ponies. The latter is a pretty pony, and, which is more to the point, is in excellent condition. When the flag fell *Dartmoor's* betto held on too long, and the consequence was the pony was out of the race from the commencement. *Sunset* and *Skedaddle* out on the running at a rattling pace, the former, with Mr. Loxton up, gradually forging in front. *Chief Mongolian* made an effort at the trees, but the pace was too warm for him and he subsided again; but as *Skedaddle* was "pumped" on entering the straight the dun contrived to secure second place, and *Dunn Brown* had the honour of showing his colours third. Time, 1.39.

6.—THE NURSERY STAKES.—A Sweepstakes of \$10 each, with \$50 added, and Yen 75 to Japanese owner of winner at date of purchase. For Japanese subscription griffins. Winner of No. 1 excluded. Weight as per scale. Five furlongs.

Mr Hugo's Kummel	...10st. 6lbs...	1
The Gunbakioku's Hi-un	...10st. 4lbs...	2
Mr Geoghegan's Heartsease	...10st. 4lbs...	3
Mr Peacock's Satsuma Crackle	...10st. 0lbs...	0
Mr Okochi's Onami	...10st. 10lbs...	0
Mr Phillippus' Akambo	...10st. 0lbs...	0
The Gunbakioku's Horin	...10st. 6lbs...	0

The start was a wretched one, *Heartsease* and *Akambo* getting much the worst of it. The former of these ponies again showed great pace succeeding in reducing the distance between him and the leaders by quite fifty yards and coming very close at the finish. A good race resulted between *Kummel* and *Hi-un* the former winning. Time, 1m. 27sec.

7.—THE AUTUMN CUP.—Value \$125. For Half-bred Ponies. Weight as per scale. Winners at the Spring meeting, 7 lbs. extra. Three-quarters of a mile. Entrance, \$10.

Mr Okochi's Haku-in (late Hokuse)	10st. 4lbs..	1
General Saigo's Bon Rens	(7lb. ex. 11st. 3lbs..	2
Mr Fujinami's Kosakura	(7lb. ex.) 11st. 1lbs.	3

*Haku-ün* started a hot favourite for this event, *Kosakura* ranking next in public favour. After several vain attempts to get the ponies away, the flag eventually fell to a very good start, the favourite cutting out the pace, closely attended by *Bon René*, *Kosakura* soon getting hopelessly in the rear. A very good race between the first pair resulted in *Haku-ün* winning by a length. Time, 1m. 33sec.

8.—THE COMMUNITY CUP.—Presented. For China ponies. Weight as per scale. Winners at the meeting, 7 lbs. extra. One mile and a quarter. Entrance, \$10.

Mr Hugo's <i>Sunshine</i> ... ..	10st. 2lbs...	1
Mr Dodds' <i>Snowstorm</i> ... ..	10st. 8lbs...	2
Capt. George's <i>Basuto</i> ... ..	11st. 5lbs...	3
Mr Buchanan's <i>Ginger</i> ... ..	10st. 5lbs...	0
Mr Phillippus' <i>Louis d'Or</i> ... ..	10st. 5lbs...	0

*Snowstorm* started a hot favourite for this race, *Sunshine* ranking next. The start was a very good one, *Sunshine* taking up the running on the inside with *Basuto* at his gerths, and *Ginger* well up; the favourite running fourth and *Louis d'Or* bringing up the rear. In this order the Stand was passed the first time. On ascending the rise all the ponies went together, *Basuto* challenging the dun, who, though apparently contented to let any of his opponents run level, evinced a decided objection to permitting them to take first honours even for a second. At the half-mile the favourite was set going and on challenging the dun, the latter showed that he had been running well within himself, for the pair immediately singled themselves out from the others, *Sunshine* still keeping lead with *Snowstorm* at his shoulder. The race home along the straight was a pretty one, but *Sunshine* was never headed and won by a length. Time, 2.53½.

9.—THE FUJIYAMA PLATE.—Value \$125. For Japan ponies. Weight as per scale. Winners at the meeting, 7 lbs. extra. Three-quarters of a mile. Entrance, \$5

Mr Fujinami's <i>Ikadsushi</i> ... ..	10st. 8lbs...	1
Mr Buchanan's <i>Annandale</i> ... ..	10st. 8lbs...	2
Mr Fujisaki's <i>Kamakura</i> ... ..	10st. 4lbs...	3
Gen. Saigo's <i>Kioto</i> (late <i>Jim Hills</i> )	10st. 4lbs...	0

*Annandale* got a slight advantage at the start, but soon had to succumb to *Ikadsushi* who went to the front and won with ease in 1.39½.

## SECOND DAY.

Saturday, 5th. November.

The second day of this meeting began with heavy rain, cloud, and mist; and a general notion prevailed that a postponement would be made. At 11 a.m. the rain fell in torrents, and continued without intermission until 6 p.m. when it lessened in violence, five inches having fallen in ten hours. The committee, for reasons connected with lotteries, &c., resolved to bring off the events set down on the programme; and a more unpleasant race day has never been experienced in Japan. On the course the committee were present, the public being represented by a few interested persons and half a dozen enthusiasts; two ladies braved the weather and made their appearance on the Grand Stand; but the general effect was one of wet, misery, and depression.

The "tips" for the events were upset by the weather. *Dunn Brown* showed himself to be a good horse. *Palefroi* won in good style. *Ikadsushi's* partiality for heats allowed *Annandale* to win. The owners of *Haku-ün* and *Kosakura*, finding no third competitor,

gallantly refused to reduce the race to a match; and it was declared off the club benefiting by the retention of the prize.

1.—THE MAIDEN STAKES.—Value \$100. For Japan ponies that have never won a race in Tokio or Yokohama. Weight as per scale. Half a mile. Entrance, \$5

Mr Kawanichi's <i>Palefroi</i> ... ..	10st. 4lbs...	1
Mr Geoghegan's <i>Heartsease</i> ... ..	10st. 4lbs...	2
Mr Hugo's <i>Yamasaki</i> ... ..	10st. 8lbs...	3
Mr Okochi's <i>Onami</i> ... ..	10st. 10lbs...	0
Mr Fujisaki's <i>Kanasawa</i> ... ..	10st. 8lbs...	0
Mr Fujisaki's <i>Matsushima</i> ... ..	10st. 4lbs...	0

In drenching rain six maiden ponies came out to do battle and *Heartsease* was made favourite *Palefroi* being next in request. A splendid start all keeping together for 150 yards when *Palefroi* and another difficult to make out came away and retained that position to the end *Palefroi* winning by the length. Time, 1m. 8½sec.

2.—THE FRENCH CUP. Presented for China Ponies. Winner of No. 8, 1st day, excluded. Weight as per scale. Winners at the Meeting, 7lbs. extra. Once round and a distance. Entrance, \$10.

Mr Phillippus' <i>Dunn Brown</i> ...	10st. 8lbs...	1
Mr Hugo's <i>Sunset</i> ... ..	10st. 12lbs...	2
Mr Buchanan's <i>Ginger</i> ... ..	10st. 5lbs...	3

Raining harder than ever and only three faced the starter, *Sunset* in spite of his 7lb. extra being made favourite but when out did not seem to like the rain. Starting at first attempt *Dunn Brown* and *Ginger* came away at a great pace and kept together to top of the hill when the former took a decided lead and increasing it all the way won easily, the others pulling up together on the post. Time, 2.43½.

3.—THE COMMITTEE CUP.—Presented. For Japan and China ponies. Weight as per scale. Half a mile. Entrance \$10.

Mr Hugo's <i>Sunrise</i> ...	10st. 11lbs...	1
Mr Geoghegan's <i>Chief Mongolian</i> ...	10st. 11lbs...	2
Col. Sagara's <i>Shiratorigataki</i> ...	10st. 2lbs...	3

In heavy rain three had enough courage to come on to the course but it was impossible to see them at the post. A bad start and a worse race; the Japanese pony bolted and the *Chief* lost a lot at the start. *Sunrise* waited coming up the straight until the *Chief* nearly reached him but it was a miserable finish.

4.—THE PATRONS' CUP.—Presented. For Japan ponies. Weight as per scale. Winners at the Meeting excluded. Three-quarters of a mile. Entrance, \$5.

*Kamakura*. Walked over.

5.—THE CESAREWITCH STAKES.—Value \$200. Handicap for Japan and China ponies that have run at the Spring Meeting. Weights to be published within 7 days of closing of entries. Entrance, \$20; \$10 forfeit if declared 7 days before the meeting. Winners after the publication of the handicap, 5 lbs. extra. Second pony to save his stake. Three-quarters of a mile.

Mr Durand's <i>Victor</i> ... ..	9st. 5lbs...	1
Mr Hugo's <i>Sunshine</i> ... ..	10st. 2lbs...	2
Mr Durant's <i>Dartmoor</i> ... ..	10st. 0lbs...	3
Mr Geoghegan's <i>Chief Mongolian</i> ...	11st. 0lbs...	0
Mr Peacock's <i>Skedaddle</i> ... ..	10st. 5lbs...	0

Starting at the first attempt *Victor* making use of his light weight came right away and although hard pushed by *Sunshine* was never headed and won by four lengths. Time, 1.38.

6.—THE KAITAKUSHI CUP.—Presented. For Half-bred ponies. Weight as per scale. Winner of No. 7, first day, 10 lbs. extra. Once round and a distance. Entrance \$10.

No Race.

7.—THE GERMAN CLUB CUP.—Presented. For China ponies. Weight as per scale. Winners at the meeting, 7 lbs. extra for each race won. One mile and a half. Entrance, \$10.

Mr Hugo's <i>Sunset</i> ... ..	10st. 12lbs...	1
Mr Phillippus' <i>Dunn Brown</i>	10st. 9 including 7lbs. extra ... ..	2
Capt George's <i>Basuto</i> ... ..	11st. 6lbs...	3
Mr Hugo's <i>Sunshine</i> 10st. 9 in. 7lbs. extra...		0
Mr Dodds' <i>Snowstorm</i> ... ..	10st. 8lbs...	0
Mr Durant's <i>Dartmoor</i> ... ..	10st. 5lbs...	0

*Dartmoor* declared 7lb. overweight. Mr. Hugo declared best to win. *Sunshine* and *Dartmoor* made play to the stand when *Dunn Brown* joined in and accompanied the leaders to the top of the hill; this order was maintained to the quarter mile post when *Sunshine* dropped back and *Sunset* came up and gradually passing the leaders won by two lengths. Time, 3m. 37sec.

8.—THE NEGISHI STAKES.—Value \$150. For Japan ponies. Weight as per scale. Winners of one race, 7 lbs. extra; of two races, 10 lbs. extra. Once round. Entrance, \$10.

Mr Buchanan's <i>Annandale</i> ... ..	10st. 8lbs...	1
Mr Fujinami's <i>Ikadsushi</i> ... ..	10st. 8lbs...	2
Mr Fujisaki's <i>Kamakura</i> ... ..	10st. 4lbs...	3
Mr Hugo's <i>Katerfelto</i> ... ..	10st. 4lbs...	0

*Ikadsushi* got away on a false start and did the course. At the second attempt they got away together but *Kamakura* could not keep straight and *Annandale* with *Ikadsushi* led up the hill where the former took the lead and kept it until the corner where *Ikadsushi* ran out and left him to finish alone. Time, 2.25.

9.—THE WEIGHT CARRIERS' STAKES.—A Sweep-stake of \$10 each, with \$100 added. For China ponies. Weight as per scale, with 14 lbs. added. To be ridden by members of N. R. C. who have never had a winning mount. One mile.

Mr Phillippus' <i>Dunn Brown</i> ... ..	11st. 8lbs...	1
Mr Hugo's <i>Sunrise</i> ... ..	11st. 11lbs...	2
Capt. George's <i>Stiff Wind</i> ... ..	11st. 2lbs...	3
Mr Peacock's <i>Centaur</i> ... ..	11st. 8lbs...	0
Mr Dodds' <i>Snowstorm</i> ... ..	11st. 8lbs...	0

*Snowstorm* declared 3 lbs. over. *Sunrise*, with his owner up, took a decided lead and kept going to the distance post, when he cried a go; *Dunn Brown*, who had led off to the three furlongs post hunting the leader began to come up, and when *Sunrise* had finished passed him and won easily; the others tailed off. Time, 2m. 23sec.

## Correspondence.

### REGISTRATION OF BRITISH SUBJECTS.

To the editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

DEAR SIR:—Having had occasion to address a letter to Mr. Kennedy, H. B. M.'s *chargé d'affaires*, complaining of Mr. Acting Consul Dohmen's conduct towards myself, in regard to having maliciously summoned me, and receiving first a reply, evading my complaint, I again addressed Mr. Kennedy, and I have received another rather ambiguous letter, and adding to his remarks his intention of declining any further correspondence upon the subject of my complaint, I have therefore to ask you, knowing that you will be more generous, to give me a little space in your valuable columns for further correspondence and also to ask you to publish my letters to Mr. Kennedy, and his replies.



Mr. Kennedy seems determined to find no fault with the acting consul and thinks nothing of that able officer not doing to others as he would do unto me, and consequently I have no cause of complaint. I beg to differ with the *chargé d'affaires*, and I leave it to the public to judge whether the acting consul summoned me maliciously or not.

How does Mr. Kennedy arrive at the conclusion that I am a defaulter? He really goes out of his way to make excuses for Mr. Dohmen, and I should be much obliged to him if he would inform me where my defaulting comes in, for I never refused to comply with the order in council, and if putting unofficially a simple question to the acting consul means that any consul is perfectly justified in causing a summons to be served without previous warning (which by the bye I had) upon any defaulter who is supposed to know the law, well I don't know the law for I was asking what the law was, so here Mr. Kennedy lends me a help, but as I cannot address him again, I must resort to your columns and leaving the British public to judge of the extraordinary powers given to Mr. Acting Consul Dohmen, who must feel himself now a mighty Englishman, although fallen from his Dutch estate,

I remain,

Yours truly,

E. WHITTALL.

Yokohama, 18th. Oct., 1881.

[Copy.]

Yokohama, 7th. Oct., 1881.

J. GORDON KENNEDY, Esq.,

H. B. M.'s *Chargé d'Affaires*,  
Tokio.

SIR:—It is with extreme regret that I have to lay before your excellency a complaint against Mr. Martin Dohmen, H.B.M.'s acting consul for Kanagawa.

Having been absent from Japan for a period of over twelve months, I returned to Yokohama on the 4th. August last, and soon after my arrival I received from Her Britannic Majesty's consulate, a blank form, with a printed request to have the same filled up and returned with the usual registration fee, when a registration certificate would be sent me, this it was stated was in compliance with the order in council.

Having been registered during the month of January 1880, and having left Yokohama on the 23rd. of May of the same year and returning here last August, it occurred to me, that I was exempted from registration until next year, for in accordance with the order in council, residents are only called upon to register once a year, during the month of January. On this supposition I asked Mr. Russell Robertson, the acting judge, to advise me in the matter, when he informed me, he would see Mr. Dohmen and consult with him; an evening or two after this, meeting Mr. Dohmen, I asked him if Mr. Robertson had spoken to him about my registering, when he replied no! and adding that he would send me a summons next day. I took this as a joke and not a threat; but unfortunately two days afterwards, the summons came and to-day I have been in the criminal court to give an account of my conduct.

I do not know whether Mr. Dohmen was justified or not in having me criminally summoned for he ought to know his business, but the reason of my complaint is because I never attempted to avoid registration, I only asked what any British subject has a right

to do, viz., whether I was exempted or not and gave my reasons for so asking (Mr. Dohmen knew this when he sent me the summons, for Mr. Robertson had spoken to him) moreover a gentleman who arrived two months before me, is still unregistered, another gentleman arrived the day after me and received the blank form the same day that I did and he was unregistered up to the time I was in court and yet not summoned. Last year a British subject arrived and the usual form sent to him to fill up, but he never complied, and this was well known to Mr. Dohmen, for on a subsequent occasion the British subject asked for a passport to go into the interior when the acting consul refused to apply for one as he had not been registered, but again not summoned. There is a British subject, a new arrival who has been here since May last, and he is not registered, will he be summoned when he is called upon to do so?

From the above cases you will observe that no attempt has been made to have the British subjects summoned and why have I been treated differently, has Mr. Dohmen any spite against me, that he goes out of his way to maliciously criminally summons me? I shall be glad if your Excellency will take some steps in this matter and bring it to the notice of the acting consul, whose duty is to give advice to British subjects when it is asked, and not to have them criminally summoned as in my case.

Mr. Dohmen in court stated that the club, where I had my conversation with him was not a proper place for official business, nevertheless it was in that building when he threatened to have me summoned, I was therefore correct in thinking the threat was in jest.

Apologising to your Excellency for troubling you in this unpleasant matter,

I remain,

Your excellency's obedient servant,

(Signed.) E. WHITTALL.

[Copy.]

Yokohama, 10th. Oct., 1881.

J. GORDON KENNEDY, Esq.,

H. B. M.'s *Chargé d'Affaires*,  
Tokio.

SIR:—When addressing your excellency on the 7th. instant, I omitted to inform you that I addressed a letter to Mr. Martin Dohmen, H.B.M.'s acting consul on the subject of the summons he sent me, thinking that by explaining my reason in writing that he would reconsider the case to withdraw the summons,

I remain,

Your excellency's obedient servant,

(Signed.) E. WHITTALL.

[Copy.]

H. B. M. LEGATION,

Tokio, 11th. Oct., 1881.

E. WHITTALL, Esq.,

4-B, Yokohama.

SIR:—I beg to acknowledge two letters received from you, under flying seal, through Mr. Acting Consul Dohmen, dated 7th. and 10th. instant respectively, in which you complain of Mr. Dohmen's conduct towards you by compelling you, as you state maliciously, to register yourself as a British sub-

ject, and in having, as I understand you, declined to answer your question as to whether registration was, in your case, compulsory before next January.

In reply I beg to state that, having given my careful attention to the subject of your complaint, as stated in your two letters, and also in a report on the subject which I have received from Mr. Dohmen, I am of opinion that it is not a matter calling for the official intervention of Her Majesty's legation.

In the first place, I do not understand why, after the receipt by you of the blank form from Her Majesty's consulate, you applied for advice to Mr. Acting Judge Robertson instead of to Her Majesty's acting consul whose duty it is to advise British subjects on questions affecting their rights and interests, and secondly, as regards the summons it is not, as you probably are aware, within the power of Her Majesty's representative to interfere with the administration of justice by consular officers.

I am, sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

(Signed.) J. G. KENNEDY.

[Copy.]

Yokohama, 13th. Oct., 1881.

J. GORDON KENNEDY, Esq.,

H.B.M.'s *Chargé d'Affaires*,  
Tokio.

SIR:—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your excellency's letter of the 11th. instant, and it was not my intention to have replied to it, only it appears to me that your excellency has not construed correctly my complaint against Mr. Acting Consul Dohmen. Your excellency states that "you complain of Mr. Dohmen's conduct towards you, by compelling you, as you state maliciously, to register as a British subject, and in having as I understand you, declined to answer your questions as to whether registration was, in your case, compulsory before next January." My complaint was for being maliciously summoned. I never said anything of being maliciously registered for at the time when I had cause to complain, I had not been registered. If your excellency will refer to my letter your excellency will observe from the cases of other British subjects given, that I was summoned, but for what breach of the order in council, I am at a loss to understand.

Your excellency further states, "why, after the receipt by you of the blank form, from Her Majesty's consulate, you applied for advice to Mr. Acting Judge Robertson instead of Her Majesty's acting consul, whose duty it is to advise British subjects on questions affecting their rights and interests."

I did not apply to the acting judge officially neither did I do so to the acting consul, when he threatened me with a summons, as already mentioned in my letter of the 7th instant, now I come to the reason of my complaint, what right has the acting consul to say he would send me a summons, when I had asked a friendly question in an unofficial manner?

Your excellency concludes, "and secondly, as regards the summons, it is not as you probably are aware, within the power of Her Majesty's representative to interfere with the administration of justice by consular offi-

cers." I do not think my letter asks for such interference.

I am, your excellency's  
most obedient servant,  
(Signed.) E. WHITTALL.

[Copy.]

Tokio, October 15th., 1881.

E. WHITTALL, Esq.,

&c., &c.

SIR:—In reply to your further letter of the 13th. instant on the subject of your complaint against Mr. Acting Consul Dohmen for having issued a summons against you compelling you to register whilst others, like you unregistered, were ignored, I have to observe that Her Majesty's consuls are not obliged to remind British subjects that they must register. Any consul is perfectly justified in causing a summons to be served without previous warning upon any defaulter who is supposed to know the law.

Mr. Dohmen's action towards you appears to me to have been in accordance with the law, and he does not appear to me to have exceeded his powers.

I cannot consequently entertain your complaint against Mr. Dohmen.

Her Majesty's representative may be called upon to censure the acts of a consul, but he can hardly be expected to exercise control over his motives.

To the above remarks I may add my intention of declining any further correspondence upon the subject of your complaint.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed.) J. G. KENNEDY,  
*Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires  
in Japan.*

#### THE SILK QUESTION.

To the editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

SIR:—Referring to your article in yesterday's issue on the silk difficulty, and particularly to the form of contract you propose, I beg to point out that a contract which would allow the seller to retire his silk in case it proved on inspection inferior to the sample agreed upon, would operate badly for the buyer in case of a rise in the market price during the time occupied in inspection, and would also operate as an inducement to the seller to attempt fraud.

What is needed in the trade is some arrangement by which the seller will be firmly bound to deliver, and the buyer to take, an agreed number of bales or piculs of silk like the sample upon which the bargain was made. Nothing short of that will check fraud or give to silk business a solid character.

There might be occasionally an irreconcilable difference of opinion as to the conformity of the silk with the sample, or as to the proper allowance to be made for slight inferiority; but provision for the reference of such differences to an impartial expert would overcome the difficulty.

In my judgment, as long as Japanese dealers can reckon on getting their silk returned to them without any serious loss whenever their habitual efforts to deceive buyers are defeated, they will continue those efforts, and no improvement in the character of silk will be made.

To effect improvement contracts must be made firm and equally binding on both par-

ties, with some ready and quick penalty on both for any infringement.

Had such a system been practised, we should long ago have got rid of the abuses on both sides which have led to the present dead-lock.

No one at all acquainted with Japanese character can believe that the producers and dealers will improve the quality or regularity of silk so long as they can play fast and loose with buyers, as your proposed form of contract would allow them to do.

The only real remedy is in making contracts firmly binding on both sides, and that is the remedy that must finally be resorted to. All propositions short of that will surely turn out to be delusions and snares.

Very respectfully yours,

A BUYER.

Yokohama, October 26th., 1881.

#### Occasional Notes.

THE *Hochi Shinbun* has the following item:—As the sons of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales are to arrive at Yokohama, those officials of the household and naval department who have been ordered to receive and accompany their Highnesses will be despatched thither about the 20th. instant. At the same time a watch boat will be on the alert for the ships composing the squadron, to give notice of their arrival as soon as they enter the port; the two receiving officials, the chief of the port admiral's office, captains of men-of-war in the port, the governor of Kanagawa, &c., will visit their Highnesses on board, and conduct them to the landing place at the port admiral's office where they will rest for a short time, during which the admirals and captains will interview their Highnesses. After this they will be conducted to the railway station in a carriage, and proceed to Tokio by special train.

At the Shinbashi station, one Prince, the receiving officials of the household department, the head of the Shikiburio (ceremonial bureau) army and naval officials, chief police official, governor of the city of Tokio, &c. will receive their royal visitors, and after an interval, their Highnesses with the prince in the same carriage will be escorted to the Yenriokwan.

THE same paper says:—With the assistance of certain Sangi, a great newspaper will be shortly established for advocating the government's case, regardless of expenditure.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* says:—A rumour obtains that the present offices of the cabinet are to be abolished, the number of the *sangi* to be decreased and the executive and legislative departments to be separated; but another report says that the number of the *sangi* is to be increased, all business to be settled by a majority, and to be carried into execution after being sanctioned by His Majesty the Mikado. It is not known which is right.

Mr. Ito is said to take the place of Mr. Okuma, Mr. Sano, present minister of the treasury has tendered his resignation, Mr. Ogi does not attend the cabinet though he attends the Daijokwan, Mr. Kawamura is to be reinstated as Sangi, and Mr. Yoshiwara, junior vice minister of the treasury, will be appointed minister. Messrs. Ishiwaru and Nakashima secretaries of the treasury, the first of whom is superintendent of the mint and the latter the head of the translation bureau, are also said to have tendered their resignations.

THE same paper announces that from some reliable source it has heard that the government has decided to abolish the Kaitakushi in January next and to establish a ken instead thereof; it adds, we hasten to publish this glad intelligence to the public and to advise those persons who have been in anxiety to take comfort and consolation.

THE *Ohoya Shinbun* remarks that the amount of new paper money manufactured by the government up to September 28th. last, realises 26,160,000 yen.

THE same journal says that the carriage of Messrs. Yamaga and Saigo, Sangi, was overthrown by the horse taking fright; both gentlemen were injured and great confusion ensued, several rumours prevailed of the accident but soon subsided.

THE *Mai Nichi Shinbun* publishes the following circular addressed by the Tokio chamber of commerce, to chambers of commerce and silk producers in several parts of Japan:—

We send this letter to you hoping you are all well.

The present difficulty between the Rango Kiito Niadzukarisho and foreign silk merchants is the greatest event which has happened in this country ever since our ports were opened, and our success or failure in this question greatly effects our commercial rights and prosperity. Those who have the national welfare at heart cannot stand aloof from the controversy. Prompted by this feeling, the chamber held a special meeting on the 10th instant, and after consultation unanimously resolved that as the object of the establishment of the Niadzukarisho is, as you already know, to secure the real interests of both ourselves and foreign merchants and also to promote mutual commercial prosperity as well as to recover our commercial rights, it should assist the Niadzukarisho, as far as justice allows, to ensure the success of the establishment and the chamber has accordingly appointed a committee and is now adopting a plan for so assisting it.

But in order to gain a victory over foreigners in the crisis, it is most important for us to secure combination among ourselves, for if the present scheme should fail, there will come no day in future in which our commercial rights will be restored. The chamber therefore wishes to encourage such spirit of combination by consulting with person in all parts of the country, and also by publishing to newspapers and chambers of commerce in foreign silk consuming countries, the whole particulars of the existing condition of silk transactions in Yokohama and the chief object of the establishment of the Niadzukarisho, thus appealing to public opinion on right and justice.

Persons of Yamanashi, Mayebashi, Fukushima, Uyeda and other district have united and informed us that they have combined with each other in respect to assisting the Niadzukarisho. As we presume that you have your own opinion on this subject we request you to express it and if you agree with us in our intention, we earnestly hope you will help the establishment to succeed in its present object.

We shall regularly inform you of every resolution passed at the chamber respecting the assistance in question, but in the mean while, we have given you the above notice.

The Tokio Chamber of Commerce.

October 18th.

THE *Akebono Shinbun* has the following item:—

As we previously stated, Messrs. Kimura Riyemon and Nakamura Sobei on behalf of import dealers, are now trying to mediate between Japanese and foreign merchants in the silk difficulty; they are well aware of the real condition of both parties and foreigners, who are becoming less obstinate, seem to accept their mediation. The mediators think the complaints of foreigners about the inconvenience of the establishment are reasonable. They asked Mr. Wilkin whether foreigners will consent to native merchants renting godowns at three places for branch offices of the Niadzukarisho, and transacting business there. Mr. Wilkin answered that if convenience is afforded by this means, foreigners might not object and he promised to ask their opinion on the subject. On the 13th. instant a meeting was held at the German Club and after it was finished, Mr. Wilkin told Mr. Kimura that the foreign merchants had given no answer to his proposition. For further consultation, Mr. Wilkin wanted to know what godowns the Niadzukarisho wished to rent, and Mr. Kimura promised to tell him after enquiry, that is, about the 16th. instant. All these negotiations were made by Mr. Wilkin in his capacity of chairman, but afterwards he asked Mr. Kimura privately whether the Niadzukarisho would not rent godowns of foreign silk merchants—in which case godowns would be available, and their keys handed over. But this Mr. Kimura refused.

Such is a short account of the matter and it seems that we are gainers and foreigners, though violent and proud in offering to lend their godowns and keys, are losers. It is said also that only three out of the thirty-seven merchants persist in their opposition; all the rest desiring to come to a compromise.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* being eager to show the public what policy the government will adopt in connection with the recent Imperial edict, publishes as an editorial in yesterday's issue, the following questions and answers which passed between a high official and a private gentleman the day after the promulgation of the edict, which the *Nichi Nichi* vouches to be authentic:—

**Question.**—The people seem to be tired of the present government consisting of a few members who are called the Satsuma and Choshu government. Is the cabinet aware of this fact and bearing it in mind whilst in pursuit of its object?

**Answer.**—Of course it is aware of this.

**Question.**—I feel filled with fear lest you may think I wish to call the Imperial edict in question, but are the cabinet ministers decided to enforce it to the end.

**Answer.**—No question is required on this point. They are resolved by the utmost exertions to adhere to the Imperial instruction, and to discharge their duty towards His Imperial Majesty the Mikado and people at large, in the respect.

**Question.**—The time for establishing a national assembly is fixed at the 23rd. year of Meiji. Is this interval allowed for necessary preparations?

**Answer.**—Of course it is so allowed.

**Question.**—This interval seems to be a very great allowance of time. Am I right in believing that if all necessary preparations are completed a national assembly may be opened before the 23rd. year?

**Answer.**—Yes, of course; if the prepara-

tions are finished I do not think that it is intended to wait so long.

**Question.**—May your answers to my questions be published?

**Answer.**—They may be published.

The names of the persons, adds the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun*, who had the above conversation, are known but cannot now be published; these interrogatories are a key to unlock the policy of the government, and so the journal leaves the public to form their own their opinions.

THE *Choya Shinbun* stated on Tuesday that new paper money manufactured up to September 28th. last, amounted to 26,160,000 yen, but yesterday the same journal gives yen 146,025,883.20 as the total amount of currency produced up to the same date.

THE same paper says:—According to information received from Yokohama Mr. Macpherson of No. 78 and other foreign merchants, deeply regretting the present silk difficulty, have consulted with Messrs. Sugimura, Makumura, and Kimura, the committee appointed by import traders for mediation, and are making great exertions to effect a compromise which perhaps may ultimately be successful.

ACCORDING to the *Akebono Shinbun* the members of the Seishi Kwaisha in Saitama Ken held a meeting recently and resolved to assist the Niadzukarisho to whom they have notified their intention to keep its rules and not to sell their silk to any but the establishment until the difficulty is over. They offer to forfeit half the proceeds of goods sold if they violate this promise.

THE *Hochi Shinbun* says:—Two daijin, and five sangi, namely, Messrs. Ogi, Kuroda, Yamada, Ito and Inouye, held a meeting at the residence of the prime minister on Tuesday and had a secret conference till 1 p.m., Mr. Saigo was the only one who attended the cabinet. At 2 p.m. they again meet together at the mansion of the Daijo Daijin at Imato. This meeting may be for some official purpose.

THE same journal remarks that the government received a telegraphic communication yesterday announcing that the Korean ambassador to this country left Fusan yesterday; he is expected to arrive in Tokio about the 1st. or 2nd. of next month.

HIS Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Japan, honoured the Princes Albert Victor and George of Wales with a visit to them on board H. M. S. *Bacchante* yesterday (31st. ultimo). All the vessels in port were dressed with flags, and as the Emperor embarked salutes were fired by all saluting vessels; the same ceremony being observed on his departure from the *Bacchante*. Of the particulars we have no direct information, no notice of the imperial visit having been in any way conveyed to the press.

EARLY yesterday morning (31st. ultimo), as soon, in fact, as the mist rose from the water, the bay presented quite a lively appearance, the various men-of-war being decked out in their gay holiday clothing, in honour of His Majesty the Mikado's visit to the *Bacchante*. Shortly after ten o'clock the seamen of all the British vessels, also rigged in their best, stood ready to mount the yards when the signal was given. Captain Lord Scott of the *Bacchante*, and several of his officers, having been on

shore returned to the vessel, and at eleven o'clock a steam launch from the port admiral's office arrived alongside the *Bacchante* announcing that His Majesty was then leaving the shore. A few minutes afterwards a gun was fired as a signal that His Majesty was approaching, and instantly every man-of-war in harbour, large and small, were firing welcome; while the sailors ran up the rigging presenting a pretty sight as they manned the yards. When some of the smoke had cleared away the procession was observed approaching, a steam launch towing His Majesty and suite in a cutter, while ten or twelve boats followed in the rear and on either side. On arriving at the *Bacchante* His Majesty was received by Lord Scott at the companion ladder and after a preliminary introduction ascended the ladder and was conducted to the state room, where several presentations took place. His Majesty left about 2.30 p.m.

THE contest for the Interport single sculls which collapsed yesterday through an accident was rowed this morning (1st. inst.) and resulted in Mr. Sim (Kobe) defeating Mr. Fenner (Yokohama) by a couple of lengths, having led the whole way, hard pressed.

It is only fair to Mr. Fenner to say that the race properly belonged to him in consequence of Mr. Sim accidentally colliding with his boat yesterday evening: and it is to the credit of that gentleman that he waived his claim of a foul and determined that the race should be contested on its merits. This is as it should be between the friendly rivalry of two amateur boat clubs; and if the same magnanimous spirit was exhibited more frequently it would foster those cordial relations between contestants without which sport is no pleasure.

ACCORDING to the *Choya Shinbun* life assurance business is in a flourishing condition in Tokio. An association which only commenced operations on the 10th. July last, has already issued a thousand policies representing a total sum insured of 680,000 yen.

THE *Mai Nichi Shinbun* asserts that a certain bureau of the finance department is engaged in taking a strict account of sums advanced by the government to the M. B. and other trading companies for the promotion of industries.

ONE circumstance connected with the utterances of the native papers relative to the present silk difficulty is noteworthy. They all more or less endeavour to impress on their readers the idea that foreign merchants are tired of holding out against the Niadzukarisho, and are either anxious to come to a compromise or even to yield to everything demanded by the establishment. It is needless to say that the "wish is father to the thought." The foreign association are as resolute as ever and have not the slightest intention of giving way to the monopolists. Flattered by the voluntary or compulsory support they have received from native dealers, the latter are beginning to reckon their chickens before they are hatched, but they are a great deal too sanguine.

OUR attention has been directed to a paragraph in the *Japan Herald* of yesterday's date (Oct. 18th.), relative to the seizure at Kobe of certain boxes of treasure in which five bars of gold were secreted.

The account given by our contemporary is substantially correct, but as the latter part has a tendency to mislead the outside public a few words of explanation appear to be necessary.

The bank official referred to is the agent of the Oriental Banking Corporation who, it appears by the mint regulations, are the sole agents of the Japanese government for the export of treasure. In furnishing the Custom House authorities with "secret information," as our contemporary calls it, he did so in the interests of his employers, and cannot be said to have exceeded his duty.

What the *Herald* means by a "share in the booty" is not clear. We have it on reliable authority, that in the steps taken by him Mr. Thompson had no mercenary motives whatever. His only object was to ensure the frustration and punishment of an underhand attempt to export gold bullion contrary to regulations.

THE report of the central board of health on epidemics during the week from the 9th to the 15th inst. shows the following results:—

Cholera new patients 1,730.  
Deaths since last report 1,197.

The daily average of deaths during the week is 46.43 in Osaka, 7.86 in Okayama-ken, and 28.33 in Kumamoto-ken. In Nagasaki-ken the number of patients was 336 during the ten days from the 6th. to the 15th. inst., and in Kioto it was 189 from the 24th of September to the 17th. inst. It was also reported that two persons were attacked with cholera on board steamers anchored at the port of Hakodate.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* remarks that H.E. Ogi, sangi, sent in his resignation as stated, but it has not been accepted by His Imperial Majesty the Mikado,

OUR attention has been called to a clerical error in the paragraph, contained in yesterday's issue (Oct. 19th), relative to the seizure of bank treasure at Kobe. We stated that the Oriental Banking Corporation are the sole agents for the export of treasure. If, for "export," our readers will kindly substitute the word "receipt" the position of the O.B.C. will be more correctly defined.

THE *Choya Shinbun* says:—Foreign merchants have hitherto been able to obtain silk from producers and dealers in Hachioji who had not joined the Niadzukarisho. A telegram has now been received from them notifying their intention to enrol themselves as members.

Patriotic people in Totomi have addressed a letter to the Niadzukarisho expressing their approval of its object and notifying their willingness to contribute 100,000 yen to its funds when called upon to do so.

The establishment has addressed a circular to silk merchants convening a great meeting for to-day (20th. instant) and three committees have been sent from Fukushima to Yokohama.

THE same journal says:—Public meetings have always been subject to close supervision by the government, but recently a great change has been manifest. The subject of every lecture is now strictly examined before it can be delivered and the greatest trouble and inconvenience is caused. Furthermore, in one or two instances lectures have been prohibited in the provinces, and some newspapers have been suspended. All this has probably been done to control a desire for freedom of speech which prevails amongst the people.

THE *Hochi Shinbun* has the following item:—The first station of the railway between Tokio and Takasaki in Gunba-ken will be erected near the Ohashi bridge. The

building materials for the station and metal for the rails are, as far as possible, to be of native manufacture and produce, and foreign engineers will not be employed in the work of construction. The cost per mile of the new line, it is estimated, will not exceed one fourth of that expended on the Tokio—Yokohama railway. According to a return published by the Nippon Tetsudo Kwaisha we find that the capital subscribed realises a total of 5,914,850 yen.

THE German brig *Carl*, has been disposed of by Messrs. Ed. Fischer & Co., to a Japanese firm, it is said for the sum of \$7,000. She changed her flag at sunset last evening.—(19th. Oct.)

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* has the following items:—

It is rumoured that H. E. Iwakura has resigned in consequence of illness. Prince Arisugawa is also said to have sent in his resignation, but as he was present at the cabinet yesterday the report is probably premature.

CABINET meetings, until recently, have been daily continued until after 6 p.m. Prince Arisugawa attended at 1 p.m. yesterday (21st. Oct.) and immediately summoned Mr. Kabayama, chief of police on some urgent business the nature of which has not transpired.

THE *Akebono Shinbun* asserts that the *Osaka Shimpō* and the *Kozan Hiron* have both been suspended and all further publication of their current issues strictly prohibited. In the case of the former paper the order of suspension was transmitted from the capital by telegram.

THE *Hochi Shinbun* says H. E. Matsugata is carrying on a strict investigation into every business transaction conducted by Mr. Okuma, late sangi,

THE same paper remarks that although several rumours prevail relative to the abolition of the Kaitakushi, which has been the cause of so much popular indignation, nothing definite is known except that the government are giving the matter their careful consideration.

ACCORDING to the *Choya Shinbun*, silk dealers at Fukushima in Iwashiro, and at Gifu in Mino, have addressed letters to the Niadzukarisho announcing their resolution to assist the establishment in the silk question.

IF a statement made by the *Hochi Shinbun* may be credited the Otaru railway has not been a very paying concern. It has been a great convenience to passengers but the chief object which its projectors had in view—the development of the resources of Muroran—has not been attained. The produce has not been abundant, the people have not been remarkable for the energy displayed by them and they have evidently been inclined to think twice before trusting the safety of their lives and limbs to the tender mercies of the "iron horse." It may therefore be safely conjectured that the revenue of the line does not do much more than cover the expenditure, and perhaps not even that.

"ALL silencing of discussion is an assumption of infallibility," wrote John Stuart Mill. If such an assumption be tenable the Japanese are to be congratulated on the possession of an infallible government. During the short space of a fortnight three papers

have been suspended and the editor of another sentenced to twelve months imprisonment for daring to discuss the actions of the "powers that be." This is sharp work, and work which we as citizens of a free country can neither understand nor appreciate.

But whilst we condemn such high-handed proceedings on the part of the government of Japan, are we quite sure that our own press does not labour under a censorship whose existence is ignored but whose dictates are none the less felt and are most certainly obeyed by those who have not the moral courage to express their opinions or to assert their independence? Defoe, who lived and wrote two hundred years ago, seems to have been conscious of this outside pressure which the press of to-day still has to encounter, when he penned the following:—

If I might give a short hint to an impartial writer it would be to tell him his fate. If he resolves to venture upon the dangerous precipice of telling unbiassed truth, let him proclaim war with mankind—never to give nor to take quarter. If he tells the crimes of great men, they fall upon him with the iron hands of the law; if he tells them of virtues, when they have any, then the mob attacks him with slander. But if he regards truth, let him expect martyrdom on both sides.

The above, with very little exaggeration, is an every day picture. This "sleepy hollow" of ours at times fairly bristles with subjects for editorials and paragraphs but there is always some degree of risk in handling them, and of treading on peoples' corns. Then comes the inevitable result. These "news-paper fellows" must be taught a lesson and an immediate order is given to "stop my paper." But an editor who has any respect for himself or for his profession will refuse to be influenced by such stupid threats, the majority of which never reach his ears. If he has not decision of character enough to express his opinions boldly and honestly upon public men and public measures the sooner he gives place to someone else who has the better it will be for the community he serves, for wherever journalists allow themselves to be swayed by such influences the press is not free; on the contrary, it is a traitor to the cause it professes to serve.

THE failure of government efforts to promote model stock farming is patent, and needs no reference here except for the purpose of introducing the want of spirit which evidently characterizes private enterprise in the same direction. Many practical stock farmers have turned longing eyes to the valley of Sengoku, lying two thousand feet above the sea, distant about twelve miles from Odawara, and nestling among hills rising to elevations of eight to fifteen hundred feet above the plain, protecting the valley especially from the north and east, while a gentle decline to the south ensures a sufficiency of soft breezes to temper the solar heat in the summer months. The surface of the valley is undulating, and covered with long grass which is capable of affording sufficient food for ordinary stock purposes, while it is capable of considerable improvement at trifling expenditure of time, trouble, and money. The area of this desirable valley, by amateur estimation, is about seven thousand English acres, and the impression upon the ordinary observer is that a more suitable place for stock farming could scarcely be found in any part of Japan. Open to the south with an uninterrupted gentle slope to the northern shore of Hakone lake (from whence an unlimited supply of pure water could be drawn with the simplest appliances),



the winter is of unusual mildness, snow scarcely ever lying on the ground for more than twelve hours, while the passes, eight hundred feet higher, are completely blocked during the months of January and February.

The approach to Sengoku from Odawara via Tomasawa, Miyanoshita, and Kiga is confined to a mountain path with no pretension to the name of road; but with trifling expenditure this difficulty might be overcome, and a track formed by which cattle might be driven to markets east of Sengoku, the obstacles in a westerly direction being fewer and less important.

That such a favoured spot should be desired by breeders of cattle causes no surprise, and we heard with satisfaction that a large portion of the valley had been enclosed for this purpose. Being in the neighbourhood a few days ago we took the opportunity of visiting the stock farm. A brisk walk of about three-quarters of an hour from Sengoku brought us to a collection of straw-thatched buildings, irregularly placed without any apparent regard to aspect, or to the extra shelter which the undulations afford from the north. A few head of cattle were feeding in the vicinity of the buildings, and at the foot of the hills some ponies were to be seen. The activity which is popularly supposed to be a marked feature of the central station of a farm like this was nowhere apparent. A solitary carpenter at work in a shed was the only human creature visible; while in a compartment at one end of a cattle shelter the overlooker was engaged in settling his accounts and cooking his dinner, conveniently combining business with pleasure. After a short interval another man and small boy rode up from their rounds, and these four persons apparently constituted the whole staff of the farm. In reply to a few simple questions we were told that the stock consisted of about fifty milch cows, some calves, a few stud bulls, and probably forty or fifty rather poor looking ponies and sickly foals. The day fortunately was bright and sunny, or the general impression upon the visitor's mind would have been much worse than it was. Even in the sunshine, under the best conditions of weather, the aspect of the farm was one of utter desolation and hopelessness. No information about expenditure and returns, of the result of past or the prospects of future transactions, was needed to confirm the impression that the undertaking in its present form can never be of the slightest value to its promoter; while as a specimen of what Japanese can do in stock farming it stands an undeniable proof of absolute failure in that direction.

That land so suitable for the purpose, of sufficient area, most eligible situation, and close to the metropolis, should be permitted to lie idle, or to be occupied by those who are apparently unable or unwilling to employ it or incapable of utilising it, is a melancholy commentary upon native enterprise. Without a competent manager, himself an experienced stock farmer, a sufficiency of stock, and the outlay of a moderate capital, the Sengoku farm can never be worthy of its name. It is true that during the summer months there is a great demand for milk by foreign visitors to the favourite summer resorts of Mianoshita and Hakone, but that this can warrant the continuance of an otherwise apparently valueless and decaying undertaking, no person in his senses can believe.

REFERENCE to stock farming brings us not unnaturally to means of internal communication by which cattle can be moved from the rearing grounds to markets; and by easy transition to the condition of the Tokaido, the main

road connecting the capital, and the seaport of Yokohama, with the numerous towns and villages lying in the populous districts to the westward.

Notwithstanding the great traffic on this thoroughfare no attempt seems to be made to improve the road or even to keep it in passable repair. So infamously bad is its condition that after a few hours rain the road becomes impassable for wheeled vehicles, jinrikisha excepted, and positively dangerous for pedestrians. Between Yokohama and Fujisawa, a distance of about thirteen miles, the track is a huge morass, the surface above water consisting of tenacious mud into which travellers' legs sink fully twelve inches; nor is there any margin or footway to afford even temporary respite from this slough of despond, the pedestrian being forced to choose between the mud and pools of yellow water of unknown depth, and frequently ten and even twenty yards in width, resembling canals intersecting the road. The only means of locomotion for the traveller compelled to set out on this unknown sea, is to submit with the best grace to the charges of the jinrikisha men—charges considered most exorbitant until the voyage is well begun, when ten times the money seems all too little. These useful little carriages with one passenger and a little baggage, may be propelled over the main road of Japan in wet weather by four stalwart men at the speed of two, perhaps three miles an hour. Three men can travel over the levels, but cannot convey their passenger up the inclines. Two men stick at frequent intervals on the levels, and the unhappy passenger has to disembark and continue an independent voyage of discovery of his own until the jinrikisha is extricated from the swamp in which it was embedded. The road through the long village of Totsuku possesses all the worst features here described; and having had personal experience of it on the 20th. instant we can faithfully declare that the picture here drawn is in no sense an exaggeration.

The popular idea that with the extension of commerce roads improve, traffic increases, labour finds abundance of employment, and signs of prosperity are visible on every side, receives practical contradiction in Japan, where native guilds and combinations are doing their utmost to recover the "lost commercial rights" of the people, and to continue to improve the commerce of the country. The fruits of their exertions should be those visible in other countries under similar circumstances; but, unhappily, the observer sees nothing in the country beyond the foreign settlements but stagnation and decay. Ruined roads bordered by wooden hovels in which the "thirty-five millions" of population are condemned to lives of inactivity and hopeless poverty; an adult able bodied population either idling away more than ninety per cent. of their time, or acting as beasts of burden, performing labour which no other men in the world can be found to do; apathy and despair, decay and retrogression, are the signs of the times in Japan; and while reflecting in this melancholy manner upon what is and what might be, we may ask, in the interest of the general public, who is responsible for the condition of the Tokaido? With the pertinent *addendum* that the present state of that road is a disgrace to those concerned therein, and that the official or officials responsible ought to be first relieved of their offices, and second severely punished.

THE advantages of a southern frontage are not always appreciated, probably because they are not understood. A simple case in point

will serve to explain these advantages. On the 19th. instant, at 1 p.m., on the slope of a hill fronting the south, overlooking Hakone lake, and about 300 feet above the surface of the water, a thermometer on the grass exposed to the sun's rays recorded 104° Fah. An hour later, on the hill at Ashinoyu, exposed to the east and north, 300 feet higher than the former position, the same thermometer, also in the sun, recorded 56° Fah. only: a difference of 48° Fah. The temperature of 104° was only pleasantly warm, and the change coming so suddenly, seemed to be one from summer to mid winter.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* gives a report too delicious to be passed over. It says that on the 10th. instant some robbers, sword in hand, broke into the office of the Kwansei Boyeki Shokwai, Nishiku, Osaka, seized 2,000 yen in kinsatsu, and all the account books containing particulars of the company's transactions with Tokio, Osaka, &c., with which they decamped. It is needless to say that these audacious burglars have not been found; and that the loss of the books to the company is irreparable.

THE *Hochi Shinbun* says:—A sweeping change which will form an important epoch in the history of the Meiji era, was published yesterday. The six sections of the Daijo-kwan were abolished and a Sangi-in established in its stead. H. E. Ito has been appointed president, H. E. Tanakura, minister of justice, vice president, and Messrs. Yamaguchi, Fukua, Tsuruda and Inouye members of the new department of state.

The following changes, promotions, and appointments are also notified:—H. E. Ogi, *sangi*, to be acting minister of justice; H. E. Kawamura, naval minister, to be acting *sangi*; Yamada, *sangi*, to be acting minister of home affairs; H. E. Matsukata, home minister, to be *sangi* and acting minister of the treasury; H. E. Saigo, *sangi*, to be acting minister of husbandry and commerce; Fukuoka, minister of education, to be acting *sangi*; H. E. Sasaki, vice president of the Genro-in, to be *sangi* and acting minister of public works; H. E. Oyama, minister of war, to be acting *sangi*; H. E. Terashima, *sangi*, to be president of the Genro-in; H. E. Sano, finance minister, to be vice president of the same department; Mr. Iwamura, senator, to be head of the inspection bureau; Mr. Yoshikawa, junior vice minister of foreign affairs, to be junior vice minister of public works, and Mr. Shioda, official of third rank in the foreign office, to be junior vice minister in the same. H. E. Kono minister of husbandry and commerce has resigned.

ONE of many strange reports circulated during the last few days has gained currency yesterday. It is to the effect that the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho are about to offer a quantity of silk for sale by public auction. The absurdity of the rumour is manifest, unless the monopolists are prepared to sell on the certificate of a well known inspector, and a foreign auctioneer can be found to give security to deliver in accordance therewith.

WE have been favoured with the following results of the rifle match of the *Societe Suisse de Tir* which took place on Friday the 21st. instant. The distance was 600 yards, the weather was fairly good and there were about 30 competitors.

## WINNERS, 1st CATEGORY.

1st prize Mr. Favre Brandt 43 points 3 net 40  
 2nd " " C. Guissani 37 " 0 " 37  
 3rd " " G. Gilbert 41 " 4 " 37

There were 4 "ties" with 37 besides the above named two gentlemen, viz.: Mr. Cameron with 37-0 net 37. Mr. A. H. Dare with 40-3-37, but not having enough ammunition for shooting off the two latter retired.

Messrs. Gilbert and Guissani had to shoot twice as they were "ties." Here follow the scores those gentleman made, which are very good indeed:

1st	Gilbert:	5, 4, 5, 3, 4, 5, 3, 4, 5, 5,	— 43 less 4	Net 39
	Guissani:	3, 4, 4, 5, 3, 4, 3, 4, 5, 5,	— 39	" 0 " 39
2nd	Gilbert:	3, 5, 4, 4, 5, 3, 5, 4, 5,	— 41	" 4 " 37
	Guissani:	3, 1, 5, 5, 4, 4, 5, 3, 5, 5,	— 42	" 0 " 42

## WINNERS, 2ND CATEGORY.

1st prize Mr. C. Weinberger 38 less 6 net 32  
 2nd " " F. Retz 30 " 3 " 27  
 3rd " " Mr. Kikujiro\* 31 " 5 " 26  
 4th " " (presented) Mr. Dourille 32 " 8 " 24

\* Mr. Kikujiro, a young man of 20 years of age, is the son of Saigo Takamori.

THE Japanese government, for reasons best known to themselves, are evidently "down on the newspapers fellows." Cases are now being heard in which the editors of the *Hochi Shinbun*, *Choya Shinbun*, *Fusho Shinshi* and *Koto Shinpo* figure ignominiously as defendants for daring to have opinions of their own and for having courage enough to express them. The editor of the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* is "wanted" and has been summoned.

The *Tokai Gisho Shinpo*, the *Shidjushka Shinbun* and the *Juge Nippo* were all suspended on Saturday, last 22nd instant, the order in each instance being communicated by telegram.

THE Japanese authorities were singularly reticent yesterday (24th. October) concerning the hour appointed for the official landing of Princes Albert Victor and George of Wales. They allowed the general public to imagine that it would be at 12 noon, but instead of that their Royal Highnesses preached the Port Admiral's office at about 10.40 and shortly afterwards proceeded to Tokio by special train. The whole affair was managed very quietly, not a single gun was fired to announce the fact that two young princes, one of them heir presumptive to the throne of Great Britain, had landed on the hospitable shores of the "Morning land."

THE *Argus* at length breathes freely. The flagstaff belonging to the Portuguese government is once more to stand erect and the flag of an ancient nation will again "brave," not the "battle," but the "breeze" on Sundays and high days. Judging from the many paragraphs which have appeared in the columns of our young contemporary on the subject, the sublime indifference displayed by the *quondam* consul towards their national ensign must have all but broken the hearts of loyal subjects of H. F. M. in this part of the world.

A CORRESPONDENT on board the U. S. *Alert*, now in Kobe, writes:—

"We are hurrying repairs in order, if possible, to get away by the 5th. or 6th. of November at the furthest. We have permission to visit unopened ports, and perhaps will make some such visits before going to Nagasaki. We expect also to go to Hongkong, and some of the officers think that we may go as far south as the Kingdom of Siam. But there is no certainty as to our movements

until the ship is reported ready for sea and the Admiral's orders are received.

The *Ashuelat* leaves on Thursday for Nagasaki, where she will go into dry dock and then proceed to Tientsin for the winter."

THE following is the organization of the Sangi-in:

President.....First rank official  
 Vice President....." "  
 Members unlimited in number " "

Assistant members, " { officials from the 4th to the 7th rank.

Member not registered for its proper members.

The numbers of members are not limited but their position is occupied by secretaries of government departments.

Secretaries, unlimited in number and discharged by assistant members.

Clerks, unlimited in number, officials of from the 8th. to the 7th. rank.

THE *Hochi Shinbun* asserts that H. E. Yoshida, Japanese minister in the United States has been ordered by telegram to return to Japan.

THE same paper publishes a rumour to the effect that H. E. Nomura, governor of Kanagawa-ken will be transferred to a bureau in the agricultural and commercial department; and that H. E. Yoshii vice-minister of public works will shortly resign his office in order to take up the post of president of the Nippon Tetsudo Kwaisha. Should this be the case Mr. Inouye, superintendent of the railway bureau will mount one or two rungs of the official ladder.

THE *Choya Shinbun* remarks:—The total amount of specie coined at the Osaka mint during the month of September last was as follows:—

Gold .....	Yen	94,010.00
Silver .....	"	194,764.00
Copper .....	"	91,428.42

THE *Hochi Shinbun* gives the following programme of the arrangements connected with the reception of their Royal Highnesses Princes Albert Victor and George of Wales:—

*First day.*—Arrival and reception, sleight-of-hand performance, banquet, music by the Imperial band and fireworks.

*Second day.*—The princes of Japan will visit the English princes in the forenoon; in the evening there will be dancing performances by young ladies.

*Third day.*—Performance by the "Yamagara" (kind of bird) in the morning after which their Royal Highnesses will be received by H. I. M. the Mikado at the Imperial Palace where a banquet will be given. In the evening there will be fireworks at the Ueno Park after the return of the princes from a visit to Asakusa. The fireworks will be followed by a grand pantomime.

*Fourth day.*—Review of troops; banquet with the Mikado in the Imperial palace when H. I. M. the Empress will interview the princes during the performance of a programme by a military band. Their Royal Highnesses will then visit various temples.

*Fifth day.*—The princes will visit the Naval Academy where gunnery exercises will be gone through. At noon there will be a banquet at the residence of H. I. H. Prince Higashi Fushimi. In the afternoon there will be Japanese polo.

*Sixth day.*—Visit to the Military Academy where a banquet will be given. In the evening there will be a reception at the Engineering College.

*Seventh day.*—Fishing in lake Hama-Goten, billiards, tight-rope performance and a banquet at the Shiba palace.

The *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* has the following items:—The Tetsudo Kioku will be engaged in the transport of cargoes of the Mitsui Bishi Co. from the beginning of next month. A large landing shed will be established near the Horaibashi bridge.

ADDITIONAL telegraph lines will be extended throughout the country, for which purpose a wire factory has been opened although it is not yet in proper working order. The scheme will be carried into effect sometime next year by which time a sufficient quantity of wires will be in readiness.

THE *Hochi Shinbun* says:—Their Royal Highnesses the British Princes left Yokohama by a special train at 11.10 and arrived at the Shinbashi station at 11.50 a.m. yesterday (24 Oct.). They were received at the latter place by H.I.H. Prince Kita Shirakawa, H.E. Tokudaiji, minister of the household, Mr. Kabayama, chief of police, Admiral Ito, H.E. Matsuda, governor of Tokio-fu, the British minister, members of the *corps diplomatique*, &c. A military band was also in attendance to enliven the proceedings by their soul inspiring strains.

Mr. Maruoka, chief of the ceremonial bureau, conducted the princes up the stairs of the station to a room set apart for their accommodation. After resting here a short time, the royal and imperial party proceeded to the Yenriokwan in two carriages under the escort of a squadron of cavalry from the guards. The road was lined by infantry and police constables. From 1 p.m. until the evening Japanese princes, daijin, and sangi continually visited the residence of their Royal Highnesses.

When the young guests visit Osaka a company of infantry will be drawn up at the Umeda station and the governor of Osaka and *suite* will conduct them to the Senfukwan at the mint which has been prepared for their reception. During their stay in Osaka the princes will be shown Osaka castle, and various temples after which they will proceed to Kioto and the Buyako lake.

THE first number of a new paper, entitled the *Osaka Maicho Shinbun*, appeared on Saturday last the 22nd. inst.

THE *Hochi Shinbun* says the proposed line of railway to Nanao will be over fifty ri in length and will pass through a tract of hilly country; the work will therefore abound with engineering difficulties. The estimated cost is 4,000,000 yen. The projectors of the scheme are unwilling to entrust the construction to the public works department as they think they will secure a much better bargain by throwing it open to contract.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* was in error in stating that H.E. Iwakura had not attended the government. Our well-informed contemporary for once in his life was wrong. The personal resemblance between that respected official and Prince Arisugawa is so great that he mistook the one for the other.

THE cat is out of the bag at last. Now we know why so many papers have been "dropped on" by the government. It appears they have been having too much to say about the Kaitakushi affair and have thereby outraged the delicate nature and wounded the tender feelings of General Kuroda. That immaculate

official has preferred 24 charges against the *Hochi Shinbun* and 8 against the *Choya Shinbun*. The cases are still pending in the Tokio Saibansho.

The Ibaraki *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* has been suddenly and unexpectedly suspended by the government. Whether the redoubtable General has had a hand in crushing this latest victim of press censorship we are unable to say.

THE *Choya Shinbun* recounts one or two more changes in the diplomatic service. H. E. Nagaoka, minister in Holland, will shortly return to this country accompanied by the wife of H. E. Yanagiwara, minister in Russia, who is about to resign his appointment. H. E. Yoshida, minister in the United States, has been ordered by telegram to return home immediately.

THE same paper states that Mr. Okuma has received a bonus of 7,000 yen in recognition of the valuable services he has rendered to the government.

THE *Japan Herald* referring to the indirect assistance supposed to be lent by the government to the Rengo in the shape of advances of specie to prevent a continuous decline in currency quotation, states that upon the realisation of the silk, here or abroad, the proceeds will probably be handed over in exchange for the paper now bought up and retired, but which will then come back on the market. From its inception the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho has had no other object than the conversion of paper into specie through the medium of silk; and had this operation served its purpose, tea and all other produce would have been placed under a like embargo. If the *Herald* will turn to the rules framed to control the action of the brokers or sellers of silk, the *raison d'être* of the silk association is obvious. The association is to receive all silk intended for sale or export; the owner is to receive advances in paper; on realisation of the silk the proceeds shall be exchanged into paper money at once, and, after deduction of advances, the balance, likewise in paper, shall be handed over to the owner of the silk. The owner may, upon application, have the exchange of specie proceeds deferred for a week, but on the eighth day the transaction must be closed. Where will the specie be exchanged? On the open market, or by the Rengo? The answer is not far to seek.

The government have been memorialised to disown their connection with this association, but have declined to accede to the prayer; or at all events, no intimation of their willingness to comply has been given to the memorialists. If a demand for half a million of silver were made, to what rate would kinsatsu fall? That would be direct trade in currency. But if half a million dollar's worth of silk is sold the exchange of kinsatsu for specie may be completed without any immediate material disturbance of currency exchange; and to the advantage of every one concerned except the seller of the silk.

This process could be carried on for a short period without exciting unusual attention, for very few Japanese look forward, or care about anticipating results; but the end would be disastrous. At present proceeds of silk are devoted to the purchase of imports, an exchange which can only be made by means of specie. Should the Rengo succeed in its compulsory exchange of silk for paper, the producer will be forced upon the market to obtain specie for the proceeds of his silk in paper, which will be impossible, the specie proceeds of his silk having passed into the treasury; and the conclusion will be the much

desired excess of exportation and cessation of importation, the benefit, in the form of bullion, passing not to producers, but to the real supporters of the Rengo, whoever they may be.

Now that affairs are approaching a crisis it may not be out of place to ask who are the foreign advisers who initiated this hollow scheme for obtaining specie for paper? The idea is not Japanese; and as we believe the people are sufficiently alarmed to ensure the failure of the attempt to rob them of their produce, the names of the actual promoters should be discovered and held up to popular execration.

THE *Japan Mail* says, in allusion to negotiations said to be on foot for a settlement of the silk difficulty,—"The overtures have come from the Japanese side, and deserve to be regarded as an evidence of friendly disposition." This is adding insult to injury. The combination, without consultation with foreign merchants, made a deliberate attempt to coerce the latter into submission to regulations of a most unreasonable and improper character, alleging an improvement in the method of conducting the trade as the sole reason for their action. Subsequently, when foreigners proved obstinate, and appealed directly to producers, the combination turned round and accused foreigners of practices which would render them liable to criminal prosecution. Finding now that their combination is not likely to be successful, and alarmed for their own future as monopolists of the whole foreign trade of Japan, the association makes an effort to retreat, and the overtures are said to be "an evidence of friendly disposition."

An attempt is made to give a false colour to the result of the foreign appeal to producers; but those interested will do well to examine the facts closely. Until the first foreign circular the merchants in the interior knew nothing of the dispute; and they are now considering, not so much the silk question, as the general system which excludes them from direct trade intercourse with foreign settlements. This is the great point at issue; and it is the knowledge of the probable result that makes the combination tremble for the future. The contest provoked by themselves has assumed dimensions the Rengo and their advisers never dreamed of.

THE *Japan Mail* should be less ambiguous. It says "we heartily wish success to our own merchants in the approaching negotiation." Are "our own merchants" Japanese or foreign? A wide diversity of opinion prevails on this point which cannot too soon be directed into the proper channel; but in the meantime we may remark that as the passage has appeared in the *foreign* edition of the paper foreigners are doubtless meant. Had the sentence appeared in the weekly, or *Japanese* edition, Japanese would have been meant. Should it appear in both editions, what then?

GENERAL Kuroda has been prevented by indisposition from attending the cabinet for several days. Mr. Nishimura has tendered his resignation.

THE action of *H. Ludwig & Co. v. The Kosekigumi*, of which we publish a full report to-day, is one of great importance, and the termination will be looked forward to with much interest. Mr. Uchiyama Rossetsu, for the plaintiffs, has presented his case to the court in a perfectly clear form, and the issue seems divested of the numerous technicalities

and ambiguities which too frequently surround commercial actions at law. Our readers will observe several points of importance in the evidence; but as the action is still pending we are not at liberty to make any comment upon the testimony.

"A BUYER," whose letter on the silk question appeared in our yesterday's issue, (26 ult.) seems to have treated the article on the silk difficulty in the *Japan Gazette* of 25th. instant, as a definite proposal setting out a settled form of contract as a basis for all future business whereas the article in question was merely tentative, the terms upon which sales, should be conducted, and the conditions expressed in the contract, being based upon broad and general principles of business which should secure recognition even among the less experienced of the native merchants. In all the meetings that have been held to discuss the difficulty, none of the conditions upon which trade might be satisfactorily conducted have been touched upon; and as we are in no way interested in a business point of view in the struggle between foreign and native merchants, it seemed probable that an impartial recognition of conflicting rights might open the door to an understanding, and possibly lead to a solution of the difficulty. The object of the article, and its train of reasoning leading up to a statement of the bases of a possible arrangement, was to point out to Japanese merchants who are clamorous for payment before delivery, consequent, as they allege, upon the feeling of insecurity which attends the present system, how their security can be made good, their property protected from contingencies of fire, and what improvements might be made, and reasonably, upon the system which has heretofore prevailed. It is open to all interested to make whatever additions or amendments to those propositions they may see fit. We repeat we only deal with the question upon the broad principles of business, and in putting forward the draft we were not without hope that it would excite wholesome discussion, and lead to suggestions such as those made by "A Buyer." It is not for us to argue the points set out in the letter; and we refer to it solely with the object of putting our correspondent right with regard to the meaning of the article, content to leave the question in the hands of men of business and practical silk inspectors to deal with as they choose: but we cannot refrain from the remark that in all discussions of this kind in Japan there cannot be too close an adherence to the practicable. We are in a country where theory runs wild; where scheme succeeds scheme; and the strangest propositions are put forward, to be found utterly irreducible into practice. Is it possible, under any conditions of the silk trade at the present moment, that the stipulation "A Buyer" would impose could be carried out? Or that its insertion in any contract would not tend to create difficulties fatal to the object of the proposed arrangement for future business; an arrangement eminently fair to both buyer and seller?

THE *Japan Daily Mail* of 25th. instant, referring to supposed efforts to bring about an understanding with regard to silk, says:—"For the Japanese coalition might never have assumed unmanageable dimensions, had not our appeal to the provinces cemented the relations between the Kwaiasha and the producers." It appears to us that the action of the government through their carrying companies, their national banks, and their officials who preach a crusade against foreign buyers of

silk, have had more to do in cementing relations with the Kwaisha than any courteous appeal on the part of foreign merchants, in which latter truthful arguments only are made use of. But is such cemented relationship likely to be friendly or lasting when the government put forth the cry in all their ramifications, "Do all in your power to prevent the producer or buyer of silk in the interior from obtaining any money from the foreigner, and force these indispensable aids to commerce and the nation's welfare to put the whole of their property and interest into the hands of a company monopoly for the money which is the country's currency, but not the currency of trade, namely the promissory notes of the government of indefinite value now and hereafter." Of course, the poor people in the interior who are not allowed to have direct communication with foreigners, or to obtain advances from them, must naturally look to somebody who may be permitted by government to advance money against produce; and it is a sign of the relations of the people with the Kwaisha in Yokohama not having been cemented hitherto, that only now, in order to obtain advances for their produce, they are obliged to sign an allegiance to the Kwaisha from whom alone they are allowed to receive any value. If this allegiance only comes in now, it is, of course, to be understood that the allegiance did not come in before; and that the plea of the Kwaisha that it was established at the desire of the merchants of the different silk provinces is shown by subsequent events to have been false.

ARRANGEMENTS have been made for two special trains to leave Tokio for Yokohama at one o'clock and two o'clock respectively, to-morrow morning (28th. ult.). By this means the invited guests to the ball to be given to-night by H. I. H. Prince Higashi Fushimi will be able to return to Yokohama.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* says:—A grand review of troops was held yesterday (26 ult.) in honour of their Royal Highnesses Princes Albert Victor and George of Wales. At 10.20 a.m. His Imperial Majesty the Mikado arrived at the Hibiya parade ground accompanied by their Imperial Highnesses Princes Fushimi and Kita Shirakawa and their Excellencies Ito, Ogi and Tokudaiji, where he was received by their Excellencies Sanjo, Yamada, and Oyama, foreign ministers and army officials. Their Royal Highnesses the British Princes reached the ground about ten minutes in advance of the Mikado. After exchange of compliments the royal and imperial party mounted their horses, witnessed the manoeuvres and returned home at 11.30 a.m.

Last evening the young guests partook of a banquet at the imperial palace at which the daijin and sangi were present. A military band and other Japanese musicians were in attendance and enlivened the proceedings by the "concord of sweet sounds."

THE same paper asserts that the salaries of the members of the sangi will range from 3,500 to 4,500 yen.

THE *Hochi Shinbun* states that 480 bales of raw silk from the Boyeki Shokwai, and 50 from the Mitsui Bussan Kwaisha were exported by the *City of Peking* on the 25th inst. Shipments by foreigners did not reach 50 bales. It is expected that about 700 or 800 bales will be sent off by the French Mail Steamer which will leave on the 29th. Oct.

THE same paper says that the Yosuda bank has promised to supply the Niadzukarisho with 100,000 yen at any time and that Messrs. Horiuchi and Arima have expressed their willingness to assist the establishment in case of emergency.

THE numbers of the *Oesterreichische Monatschrift für den Orient* for June, July and August contains articles of much interest on matters connected with the far east. We shall here summarize some of them. Professor Neumann writes on oriental silk in the middle ages. Soon after the Byzantine emperor Justinian had ruined the domestic manufacture of silk by his fiscal measures, two Persian monks appeared at his court, and brought strange tidings of the cultivation of silk in the north western part of China, known then as Serica. The origin and preparation of threads were then for the first time known in Europe. The west entered the list of countries of sericulture, when worms were brought from Central Asia, and an epoch in the silk-trade commenced which only ended with the capture of Constantinople by the Turks, and the complete destruction of Asiatic trade. Answering in the negative the question whether silk was known to the ancients, the writer describes the various textures, somewhat resembling silk, which were known to the Greeks. The date of the first discovery of the silk-worm in China is given as 2698 B.C., and is attributed to the wife of the Emperor Hoang-ti. It was not until 1125 B.C., however, that it was used for clothing. The Arabs soon imitated the Chinese textures, and under them silk manufactures flourished exceedingly. The Persians also brought the industry to a high state of perfection, and numerous worms worked at the time of the Khalifate, and up to the Turkish invasion, all over south-western Asia. A large portion of the fabrics thus produced was consumed in the east itself. The Romans regarded silk clothes as an effeminate luxury, and Marcus Aurelius himself possessed only two silk garments; but in the ninth and tenth centuries Rome and Constantinople were the great centres from which silk fabrics were distributed throughout the rest of Christian Europe. The first impulse to Italian silk production was given by the Normans in Sicily; France had received silk goods from a remote period from Moorish Spain, and in the thirteenth century Montpellier had already a colony of silk-weavers from Egypt. Venice, Genoa, Lucca, and other Italian cities also were renowned during the middle ages for their silk textures.

Herr Exner writes on Japanese wood industries. His paper contains little that is new in this country. He regards the Japanese as being in this respect far in advance of every other nation in the world, and he marvels that English machines for working wood are finding their way so slowly into the country.

The soy bean as an article of food is the title of an anonymous paper.

The meaning of the term "Mikado" is discussed by Dr. Danckelmann of Leipzig. He refers to a previous writer who had asserted that this title was not the correct one of the Japanese emperor, and that it had arisen from an error of the Catholic missionaries. Several authorities, amongst others Mr. Satow, are quoted to demonstrate the incorrectness of this proposition; an unnecessary task for most people having even moderate acquaintance with Japanese literature.

The August number contains a long article by Alwin Rudel of Dresden on Japanese paper manufacture. It is unnecessary to refer at much length to this well-worn subject. A sketch of Japanese history, a description of the native methods of making paper, and, finally, an account of the paper-mills of Japan worked on the European system, make up the substance of the article.

MR. KAWAGE, chief of the commercial bureau has been permitted to resign and Mr. Mayeta Nasana is reported to have been appointed as his successor.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* says:—Those who earnestly desire the establishment of a legislative assembly interpret the Imperial Decree to mean that it will be convened before the 23rd year of Meiji, if all necessary preparation are completed before that time. The home minister, being in doubt about the matter, asked the Daijō-kwan what was the actual intention and was told that the parliament would be assembled in the above named year, and *not* before. Several papers have been ordered to correct previous statements in accordance with this ruling.

THE same paper asserts that the Tokio chamber of commerce has received many letters from producing districts promising support to the Niadzukarisho.

THE *Mai Nichi Shinbun* has been released from "durance vile" and once more holds its own amongst the licensed journals of Japan.

THE *Hochi Shinbun* has the following items:—Their Royal Highnesses Princes Albert Victor and George visited the Imperial palace on Tuesday and had an interview with their Majesties the Mikado and Empress. After partaking of tea and cake they returned to the Yenriokwan.

WE hear agreeable rumours to the effect that a ball will be given in Yokohama in honour of our royal English visitors; and that, if the arrangements of the fleet will permit, it will take place on next Monday evening. Should this project be carried out, we would suggest to Mr. Ford, whose elaborate pyrotechnic display so long promised for the evening of the 31st. threatens to be much marred by the counter-attraction which will undoubtedly deprive the gardens of the presence of ladies, that an effort should be made to hasten preparations and to substitute Saturday for Monday. The display of fireworks is, we understand, one of unusual excellence, and certainly the opportunity is one which the majority of residents will lose with regret. Apart from this, the expenditure already incurred may prove a heavy loss to Mr. Ford, if it should happen that the spectators upon whom he relies are to be entertained elsewhere, and a costly collection of fireworks wasted. Probably, in the uncertainty at present prevailing, Mr. Ford will act wisely, while there is still time, by fixing his garden entertainment for Saturday 29th. instant.

By desire of His Imperial Highness Prince Higashi Fushimi the reception committee have issued invitations for a ball at the Engineering College, Tokio, in honour of their Royal Highnesses Princes Albert Victor and George of Wales, which will take place this evening (27th. instant), at 8.30 p.m.



The example set by the Niadzuriho is being followed by native merchants at Kobe, who are combining against what they are pleased to call the greed and rapacity of foreigners; so the *Nichi Nichi* informs us.

As the British Barque *Charlwood* was beating up the Bay yesterday morning a large fishing boat attempted to cross her bows, and caught her sail in some of the head gear which capsize her. Fortunately the Exchange Market boat was towing astern of the *Charlwood*, which cast off and went to the assistance of the disabled boat.

The feeling towards foreigners on the part of, we fear, a majority of the people who have no personal knowledge of or association with them, is shown by the following letter, received yesterday by a native merchant from a correspondent in Kishu. The names are, for obvious reasons, omitted; but the letter is genuine. The translation runs as follows:—

Although I had not the pleasure of seeing you before I have to write you a line on your action and I wish to warn you.

Taking the chance that the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho is in trouble with foreigners, you have, I hear, sent a man secretly to Hachioji to buy silk, you siding yourself with foreigners, and you bought some there. Such action must be considered very wrong and mean. You side yourself with foreigners who must be taken as our enemies when we are struggling to recover our commercial right. Your action is to destroy our country. You deserve to be beheaded. If you try the same thing again I shall severely censure you with my partners who are now combined over two hundred men in number. October 27th, 1881.

If this letter affords any clue to the state of national feeling the outlook is not favourable to foreign commerce. If the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho has effected no other good purpose it has served to show how, beneath the outward seeming of cordial politeness of the Japanese, there are the lurking devils of envy, hatred, fear, and treachery of and towards foreigners. This knowledge is valuable.

The *Choya Shinbun* says:—The Korean ambassador and staff left Kobe for Yokohama by the *Nagoya Maru* on the 27th instant, arriving on the following day. From thence they proceeded by train to Tokio and took up their residence at Shiba Park.

The Kaitakushi have preferred charges against the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* and several other papers for expressing their opinions rather too freely and for publishing "damaging" statements.

The cases are still pending in the Tokio Joto Saibansho.

The *Mai Nichi Shinbun* asserts that the Niadzukarisho have decided to allow direct exportation of silk as there is no chance of coming to a compromise with foreigners. The Doshinsha has been struck off the roll of members of the establishment for selling silk contrary to the rules. Mr. Ishikawa was reported for a similar offence and will probably share the same fate if the charge be proved against him.

The native import dealers have not yet succeeded in effecting a compromise with the foreign silk association.

On August 2nd last, the *Japan Daily Mail*, commenting on our announcement that the certificate of the master of the *Ella Beatrice*, suspended for twelve months by a naval court of inquiry held here, had been forthwith returned to him by the Board of Trade attempted to discredit the fact, adding that "it is inconceivable that the Board would have reversed the decision of our local court without even communicating the fact to the president of that court. The Board's invariable practice, we believe, in the event of an appeal's success, is to forward, for the future guidance of those concerned, a careful exposition of its reasons. Nothing of the sort has been done in the present instance, and there is certainly sufficient warrant to doubt whether Captain Thompson has been so fortunate as supposed."

The loss of this vessel, and the subsequent decision of the court of inquiry, attracted much attention here at the time, and in briefly referring to the above quoted note in the *Daily Mail* we stated the authority upon which we relied for saying that the conclusion of this court had met with such earnest disapproval that the master's certificate had been forthwith returned on appeal, passing over our contemporary's "awkward and very suggestive fact" that the captain of the *Ella Beatrice* lost his certificate at Hakodate before he lost his ship; a fact extremely "awkward" when considered in connection with the evidence of the master who stated he had never visited Hakodate before his arrival there overland after the loss of his ship. We now know that the certificate suspended by this court was returned to Captain Thompson; and we observe with regret that while the proceedings of the court, and its harsh decision so injurious to the reputation of the person chiefly concerned, were made public, no official intimation has been given of the reversal of that decision; the delay is unintelligible if, as the *Mail* states, the invariable practice of the Board of Trade has been adhered to in this instance. This is the point to which attention should be called, and with all respect for the rules and regulations of naval courts we assert that provision ought to be made to give publicity to all further proceedings on appeal or otherwise.

The interests of a large and highly respectable body of British shipmasters lend to the question an importance which justifies this allusion it.

We have heard from the north that a large English steamer is now discharging at Otaru additional rails, bridges, &c. for the Poronai extension of the Sapporo railway. This material has been purchased in the United States and England by Colonel Crawford, the engineer under whose supervision the railroad between Sapporo and Otaru was constructed.

We have further information to the effect that the officials of the Kaitakushi are ordered to make up their accounts to January next, and it is probable the affair will run on under the same management as at present for a further five months. To provide for such a contingency the estimates for the current financial year contain an item termed "surplus," of 433,532 yen for expenditure on this department; an allowance explained by a note that it was not then decided whether the colonization commission would be abolished or not.

On the 24th ultimo we reprinted a paragraph from the *London and China Express*, which journal had taken it from the *Army and Navy Gazette*, stating that the cruising squadron under Captain East had arranged for coaling off Chefoo where fuel was ready at a cost of something like 4l. a ton. The foresight of Admiral Willes, however, prevented this unnecessary expenditure, for coal of good quality having been discovered near Yokohama he ordered the ships to make their way to this port and fill up their bunkers with the new coal at less than 1l. a ton. This saving, said the paragraphist, will provide the admiral's pay and allowances for the whole term of his command on the China station.

The mine thus reported to have been discovered near Yokohama, is situate, we believe, at the base of the French hill, and is not more than one hundred miles from the British naval depot. It has long been surreptitiously worked; and great credit is due to the distinguished officer for its discovery. The thing was secretly done. It appears the ships supplied arrived without the knowledge of the public; and to carry out the extreme saving of the admiral's salary and allowances as mentioned, the vessels had, though entirely unknown to the community, to land all their guns, stores, and ammunition in order to make room for the enormous quantity of coal required.

This is one of the most singular naval operations ever carried out in these waters; at least it would have been if it had been put into execution.

The *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* says:—According to a telegram received from London on the 28th. ult. by the Boyeki Shokwai there was no demand for Mayebashi and Hachioji silk, but the best Shinshu fetched 19s. 6d. in London and fr. 55.75 in Paris. A telegram received from New York on the same day states that best Kakeda sells for \$3.25 and best Kikai for \$5.50, the market being quiet but prices firm.

The same paper says that the prizes recently awarded at the Hachioji exhibition for cocoons, raw silk and silk fabrics will be distributed to-morrow, the 5th. inst., by Mr. Shinagawa, vice-minister of the agricultural and commercial department. The number of visitors to the exhibition from the 15th. to 30th. ult. was 17,135.

YESTERDAY, being the anniversary of the birth of His Imperial Majesty the Mikado, the ships in harbour were gaily dressed and the national flag of Japan stared one in the face here, there and everywhere. The day was observed as a general holiday both by natives and foreigners all the banks, offices, and places of business being closed. In Tokio a grand review of troops was held at 9 a.m. on the Hibya parade ground by the Mikado in person and in the evening H. E. the foreign minister and Madame Inouye held a reception at their residence, at which many of the principal foreign residents of Tokio and Yokohama were present in response to invitations previously issued.

We learn that Mr. Nakamura Motoyoshi, who for the past two years has presided over the Yokohama Saibansho, has been appointed a member of the Daishi-in, or supreme court in Tokio, and will leave Yokohama in a few days. During the period of Mr. Nakamura Motoyoshi's judicial career in Yokohama, many very important commercial actions have been tried

before him; and, as remarked by us on previous occasions, his decisions have been marked by considerable knowledge of legal principles, fairness, and impartiality. His removal from here is of course on promotion; but it will be much regretted by the general public.

THE *Mai Nichi Shinbun* has the following notes:—His Imperial Majesty the Mikado called on their Royal Highnesses the British Princes at the Yenriokwan at 9.30 a.m. yesterday.

At the meeting of the *Jigo To* (Liberal party), which was held yesterday Mr. Itagaki was elected president, Mr. Goto vice president, and Messrs. Nakashima, Takenouchi, &c., &c. permanent members.

THE *Akebono Shinbun* announces that a banquet will be given to the British princes this evening at the Seiyoken hotel by the *daijin* and *sangi* to be followed by a display of fireworks.

THE *Choya Shinbun* says:—Mr. Nakanishi, acting editor of the *Mai Nichi Shinbun*, has been sentenced to twelve months imprisonment for violating art. 13 of the press regulations.

THE same paper says that the *Mito Shinbun* and *Kochi Shinbun* have both been suspended by the government.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* publishes the following statistics of births, deaths, marriages &c., in the city of Tokio and its vicinity during the half year ending 30th. June 1881.

Births male ... ..	7,569
„ female ... ..	6,309
	<hr/> 13,878
Deaths male ... ..	7,560
„ female ... ..	7,213
	<hr/> 14,773
Marriages ... ..	4,111
Divorces ... ..	1,906

THE same paper says:—H. E. Chojioteke, the Korean ambassador and *suite*, arrived in Kobe on the 23rd. inst. by the *Annei Maru*, and landed on the following day. After spending a week in Osaka and Kioto H. E. will proceed to Tokio. He is said to be a relative of the Korean king. He has the reputation of being a clever man who exercises great influence over the government of his country.

THE report of the central board of health 27 the cholera epidemic for the week ending 27th. Oct. is as follows:—

New patients ... ..	928.
Deaths since last report ... ..	401.

THE daily average of deaths during the week was:—

Kioto ... ..	5.17
Osaka ... ..	18.33
Hiogo-ken ... ..	15.00
Nagasaki-ken ... ..	25.00
Fukuoka-ken ... ..	7.00
Kumamoto-ken ... ..	45.04

During the past month there were only eight patients in Oita-ken. The epidemic is gradually disappearing.

THE continuance of the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho gives rise to some curious speculations, one of which we beg to put forward in the form of an arithmetical problem in order that all Japanese, from the labourer up through the producer to the merchant, may see for themselves, in figures which cannot lie, what the effect of monopolies must inevitably be.

Assuming a stock of silk in the hands of the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho of the value of four millions of dollars; that it is subject to interest upon the lowest scale of computation in Japan, and to storage and other minor charges, all payable to the Rengo, estimated to be equal in daily amount to the value of four bales of silk, required to find what period will be consumed in the transfer of the entire ownership of the whole stock from the producers to the members of the Rengo? In other words, to enable the twenty-six monopolists to acquire the whole property in that which now belongs to the real working men of this country.

When this exceedingly simple calculation is worked out, every person will be able to see what is meant by monopoly. Monopolists are invariably men who live by their superior wit, which is employed to benefit themselves at the expense of others; and an excellent example of how this is being done in Japan is to be obtained in the solution of the arithmetical sum given above.

An active member of our staff, a gentleman of experience and observation in various countries, endowed with practical common sense, and amenable to reason, wishes to obtain an appointment in Japan as instructor in commercial arithmetic. He requires a large salary, but the amount would be a mere trifle in comparison with the sum that would be annually saved if his teachings were followed to even a moderate extent.

MR. GODAL, says the *Mai Nichi Shinbun*, whose name has recently become notorious throughout the country in connection with the Boyeki Shokwai is now on a visit at Tokio, and is said to be holding a secret consultation with a certain high official on a question of ways and means. It will be remembered that some time ago he borrowed 500,000 yen from the government in connection with his indigo scheme. The money has to be refunded at once and the unfortunate speculator is at his wit's end as to how he shall "raise the wind."

#### BASE BALL.

November, 3rd., 1881.

YOKOHAMA vs. U.S.S. "SWATARA."

Yokohama	Pos.	Runs.	Outs.	"Swatara"	Pos.	Runs.	Outs.
Churchill.....	P.	2	3	Fullan.....	2B.	3	3
Merriman, W.L.....	C.	2	2	O'Neill.....	C.	3	4
Denison, .....1 B.	2	3	3	Foulke.....	R.F.	3	2
Knox, .....S. S.	2	3	3	Wright, .....L. F.	3	3	3
Van Buren, J. S.....	L. F.	2	3	McLean .....P.	1	3	3
Morse, F. S.....	2B.	0	4	Fols.....	3B.	2	3
Hepburn.....	3B.	1	3	Lelper.....	1B.	2	4
Van Buren, H.S.....	C.F.	2	3	Spicer.....	C.F.	3	3
Beauchamp .....B.F.	2	3	3	Cabanise.....	S. S.	4	2
		15				24	

Innings .....1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Yokohama .....2 0 0 1 6 4 1 0 1=15 runs.  
"Swatara".....2 4 0 3 1 5 0 9 1=24 runs.

## Law Reports.

IN THE TOKIO JOTO SAIBANSHO.

Before Messrs. IMAMURA NOBUYUKI AND ANDO TEIKAKU, Judges.

Monday, October the 10th, 1881.

CORNES & Co. vs. TSUKAMOTO TOZABURO.

ON APPEAL.

This was a claim to order the defendant to pay storage, fire insurance and interest on a certain lot of glass bought from the plaintiffs. The original claim was to order the defendant to take delivery of the said glass, or in default of which to pay to the plaintiffs the sum of \$1,000 damages. The defendant elected the latter course after considerable delays caused through his appealing, whereupon the plaintiffs brought the above suit for storage, fire insurance and interest up to the time of the defendant's paying the \$1,000 damages.

The Yokohama Saibansho allowed the claim for storage and fire insurance, but disallowed that for interest on the cost-price of the glass in question, from which judgment the defendant appealed.

Mr. Utagi Shinichi appeared for the appellant.

Mr. Montague Kirkwood represented the respondents.

To-day the Court gave the following

JUDGMENT.

The two amounts in dispute in this cause are \$844 for storage and fire insurance from the 31st. day of January, 1878, up to the 19th. day of November, 1880, and \$3,104.40 interest on the contract price of the glass.

1.—The first point, that of storage and fire-insurance, has already been decided by a final judgment declaring that the appellant was obliged to pay the same.

When the respondents and plaintiff first brought their original suit they had only made up the account of the said storage and fire-insurance up to the month previous to that in which they filed their petition. And they at the time did not include in their claims the amount for storage and fire-insurance for the subsequent period of time during which this suit went on, i.e. the amount of their present claim, because it was impossible for them to foresee how much the amount would come to. But their having failed to do so certainly does not signify that they waived their right to such a claim.

Their making this claim now therefore does not come under the heading of *res judicata*, and the appellant is responsible for this part of their claim.

2.—As to the 2nd. point, interest on the contract price of the glass, it appears that the respondents had given the appellant (then defendant) the option either to take delivery of the glass in question, or to pay them \$1,000, difference between the contract price and the then market value, together with interest, on that sum. The appellant adopted the second alternative, and for his breach of contract paid the respondents the said

difference in price together with interest thereon, so that consequently he is not further responsible for any interest on the contract price of the glass.

3.—For the above reasons this court upholds the judgment given in the court below.

(Signed) IMAMURA NOBUYUKI,  
" ANDO TEIKAKU,

Judges of the Tokio Joto Saibansho.

Before Messrs. MASUDA SAN and ITO KEN-  
KICHI, Judges.

Friday, October 14th., 1881.

HOLME & Co. vs. MITSUMIZO SAHEI.

On Appeal.

This was a claim to order the defendant to pay plaintiffs the sum of yen 57.50 the amount of their commission which they had lost through the defendant's breach of a contract for fishing rods. The Yokohama Saibansho gave judgment in favor of the plaintiffs, from which decision the defendant appealed.

Mr. Ota Mosuko appeared for the appellant, Mr. Uchiyama Rossetsu represented the respondents.

After rehearing the case the Court to-day gave the following

#### JUDGMENT.

The principal points in this case are :

- 1.—Is the appellant responsible for damages claimed by the respondents ?
- 2.—Is the amount claimed by the respondents a reasonable one ?
- 3.—Is the appellant bound to pay the respondents interest on the amount of the damages claimed by them ?

The reason why a business man does business is to make a profit. And in this case the respondents have lost profit by the appellant's not delivering them certain goods contracted for, which otherwise they would have made. It is therefore quite proper that the appellant should make good this loss caused the respondents through his breach of contract, because the respondents' having sustained a loss or having failed to make a profit was caused by the appellant's breach of contract. The appellant's argument regarding the fluctuation of price etc. of the goods contracted for does not hold good, because the yen 57.50 claimed by the respondents in this suit is the amount of their commission i.e. 10 per cent. on the contract price of the goods contracted for with the appellant, which amount they are fully justified in claiming.

The court therefore cannot sustain appellant's petition and upholds the judgment of the court below.

As to the interest on the amount of the damages since the time of the judgment, however, it is held, that as a judgment from which an appeal is made can only be executed after a final judgment has been rendered, the respondents' claim for interest during a time during which such judgment had not been executed, can not be maintained.

Judgment therefore is for the respondents as in the court below, but without interest.

(Signed) MASUDA SAN.  
" ITO KENKICHI.

Judges of the Tokio Joto Saibansho.

October 14th, 1881.

IN THE YOKOHAMA SAIBANSHO.

Before NAKAMURA MOTYOSHI, Esq., Judge.

Tuesday, October 18th. 1881.

S. STRAUSS vs. NAGATA YIHEI.

The petition of the plaintiff sheweth as follows :—

1.—That on the 15th. day of October 1880 the defendant entered into a contract with the plaintiff, by which he bound himself to deliver to the said plaintiff 330,000 lacquered plates. (exhibit No. 1).

2.—That the said lacquered plates were to be delivered to the plaintiff in three instalments during the months of March, April and May 1881, and that the plaintiff was to pay for them at the rate of yen 17.50 per 1,000 for 12,000 3 inch 3 and 12,000 3 inch 5 plates, and yen 18 per 1,000 for 9,000 3 inch 8 plates.

3.—That the plaintiff paid the defendant yen 25 bargain money on the above said contract.

4.—That the defendant has not only failed to deliver any of the goods thus contracted for, but has also failed to return plaintiff the bargain money.

The plaintiff therefore prays this Honorable Court :—

1.—That the defendant be ordered to pay to the plaintiff the sum of yen 120 being the difference which plaintiff had to pay for the goods in question elsewhere.

2.—That the defendant be ordered to return to the plaintiff the sum of yen 25, bargain money paid by the plaintiff on the contract, together with interest.

3.—That the plaintiff may have such further relief as the nature of the case may require and as to this honorable court may seem fit.

To which the defendant put in the following answer :—

1.—That the defendant admits having entered into a contract with the plaintiff for the supply of 33,000 lacquered plates, and that he received yen 25 bargain money from the plaintiff on this contract, which he gave to the workmen.

2.—That however on the 19th. day of November 1880 the defendant paid back the said yen 25 to the plaintiff and that thereupon both parties agreed to cancel the contract.

3.—That on the 26th day of November the plaintiff once more paid the defendant yen 25 on a new agreement for the same goods, but that at that time no written contract was drawn up and that the prices were higher.

4.—That in this new verbal agreement no time for the delivery of the goods was specified and that the bargain money was to have been deducted from time to time as the goods should come in.

5.—That for these reasons the plaintiff has no right whatsoever to demand damages of the defendant, nor has he any right as yet to claim the bargain money, and interest thereon.

Therefore the defendant prays this Honorable Court :—

That the plaintiff's petition be dismissed.

Mr. Uchiyama Rossetsu acted for the plaintiff, the defendant appeared in person.

Mr. Uchiyama being asked what plaintiff had to say in reply to the defendant's answer to the petition stated :—

In the second paragraph of his petition the defendant says that on the 19th. of November 1880, he returned the plaintiff the yen

25 bargain and that the original contract was then cancelled. The true facts of the matter are these. After making the contract with the defendant and paying him the bargain money the plaintiff heard several bad reports about the former which gave him reason to distrust him. When therefore on the 19th. of November 1880, the defendant delivered the plaintiff a small lot of other goods (not of the contract goods) the plaintiff deducted the 25 yen paid on the former contract from the price of said goods. The defendant however subsequently promising to carry out the contract and begging to be again paid the yen 25 bargain money, the plaintiff, who really wanted the goods, on the 26th. of November, i.e. 5 days afterwards, once more paid the defendant the said yen 25, under the understanding however that the original contract should be strictly carried out. This is proved by plaintiff's exhibit No. 2, receipt for the 25 yen, dated November 26th. 1881.

When the time arrived for delivering the contract goods the defendant did not put in appearance, but on the 30th. day of April he came to ask for an extension of time, promising to deliver part of the goods by the 15th. of May and the remainder by the 31st. of July 1881. This extension of time was granted him, but he had to give plaintiff a written document promising fully to carry out the original contract.

This written document (plaintiff's exhibit No. 3) shows clearly that the original contract was never cancelled. The same document also proves defendant's assertions in his paragraphs 3 and 4 to be false.

In paragraph 3 the defendant says that in the new verbal agreement the prices were made higher, but of this the plaintiff knows nothing; and if it were so the defendant would certainly not have neglected to state it in the exhibit No. 3.

In paragraph 4 the defendant says that no time was specified for the delivery of the goods. This assertion is ridiculous on the face of it, because no person in his senses would think of purchasing goods without specifying a time for their delivery. But it is also proved by the exhibit No. 3 in which the defendant clearly states that as he has been granted an extension of time till the 31st. of July, he will faithfully carry out the original contract (exhibit No. 1).

I now come to the question of damages.

The defendant failing to deliver the contract goods, the plaintiff had to purchase elsewhere, and as the sort of goods in question had gradually risen in price at the expiration of the contract time, the plaintiff was obliged to pay much higher for them than the contract price.

The 3 inch 3 and 3 inch 5 plates which the plaintiff had contracted for with the defendant at yen 17.50 per 1,000, he had to buy elsewhere at yen 21; The 3 inch 8 plates contracted for at yen 18 he had to buy elsewhere at yen 22. I here produce Exhibits 4 and 5, receipted bills from dealers in this article where the plaintiff bought after defendant's breach of contract.

I have therefore shown that through the defendant's breach of contract the plaintiff was obliged to pay yen 3.50 per 1,000 more than the contract price on the smaller, and yen 4 per 1,000 more than the contract price on the larger size of these goods, making the total amount paid more than the contract price by the plaintiff yen 120.

Regarding the yen 25 bargain money and interest thereon I shall say nothing further,

because I have already proved clearly that the defendant received that sum as bargain money, that he failed to carry out his contract, and that he has never returned the said bargain money.

The defendant admitted plaintiff's statement to be true in the main, but refused to pay any damages, as such was not specified in the contract. He admitted his responsibility to return the plaintiff the yen 25 bargain money but nothing more. He said that he could not make any objection to the prices at which the plaintiff stated that he had had to buy the goods, because he did not know what the prices at that time might have been. But he objected to the prices in the original contract being taken as those agreed to by him, because by a later verbal agreement these prices had been raised. Here he produced a list of prices alleged to have been agreed upon with the plaintiff by a verbal agreement in November.

Mr. Uchiyama objected to this paper being accepted in evidence since no such a thing had ever taken place and as the paper itself had nothing on it but a few prices written down by the defendant himself without any proof that the plaintiff had ever heard of or seen it.

Neither party having anything further to say, the court said that judgment should be given in a very short time and then adjourned.

The court gave the following

#### JUDGMENT.

The plaintiff in this case having an order from Europe for lacquered ash-plates made a contract with the defendant for the delivery of 33,000. The defendant failing to deliver any of the goods thus contracted for by the end of the contract time, the plaintiff was obliged to buy them elsewhere, thereby sustaining a loss of yen 120.00 which he had to pay over and above the contract price. Besides this the plaintiff demands yen 25.00 bargain money paid to the defendant on this contract, together with interest thereon.

The defendant admits having broken the contract in question but claims that as it was not specified in the said contract that he would be held liable for damages for breach of contract, the plaintiff was not justified in claiming such damages from him. He further states that among the plates bought by the plaintiff from the other parties against this contract there was a quantity of 4 inch plates, while the largest size in his contract with the plaintiff was  $3\frac{1}{10}$  inches, and that the larger size was, of course, dearer than the  $3\frac{1}{10}$  inches size.

However as it is clear that the defendant has broken the contract he is bound to compensate the plaintiff for any loss sustained by the latter through such breach of contract whether such damages were specified in the original contract or not. And as to the point of size of the goods the defendant in answer to plaintiff's question, "whether in July or August of this year  $3\frac{1}{10}$  inch plates like the ones contracted for could be bought for less than yen 22 per 1,000," said that he did not know what they were worth then, and has therefore failed to rebut the plaintiff's evidence.

In regard to the yen 25 bargain money the defendant claims that all he is obliged to do is to pay the plaintiff back the said yen 25.00 without any interest, but as he has had this money in hands without fulfilling the contract the plaintiff is justified in claiming legal interest, i.e. 6 per cent. per annum on the same.

The court therefore orders the defendant

to pay to the plaintiff yen 120.00 and yen 25.00, as claimed by the plaintiff together with interest of 6 per cent. per annum on the sum of yen 25.00, commencing from the 26th. day of November, 1880, until the date of payment.

#### YOKOHAMA SAIBANSHO.

Monday, October 24th, 1881.

H. LUDWIG & Co. v. THE KOSEKIGUMI.

The plaintiffs' petition shewed as follows:  
1.—That on the 29th. day of September last one Nakajima Tosuke, *banto* of the defendants, accompanied by one Hagiwara Hikoshichi, owner of the silk, came to the plaintiffs' offices and offered to sell them 8 bales of silk.

2.—That the plaintiffs agreed to buy the said 8 bales of silk of the defendants provided they would bring them to the plaintiff's godown and have them inspected and weighed there, but refused to purchase them if they should have to take delivery thereof at the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho.

3.—That the defendants accepted this condition, and that it was thereupon agreed that the said 8 bales of silk should be delivered in the afternoon of the same day, and that after inspecting and weighing them in their own godowns the plaintiffs were to pay for the same at the rate of \$720 per picul.

4.—That of course no written contract was drawn up between the parties, as it was a cash transaction.

5.—That the defendants failed to deliver the silk at the time specified, and that one Gunaya, of the defendants together with the said Hagiwara called at H. Ludwig's private residence on the Bluff the following morning, when the said Gunaya tried to induce H. Ludwig to cancel the bargain.

6.—That the said H. Ludwig (the managing partner of the plaintiff's firm at Yokohama) refused to cancel the bargain and demanded immediate delivery of the 8 bales of silk purchased by the plaintiffs.

7.—That the said Gunaya together with the said Hagiwara then left H. Ludwig's private residence, but came again to plaintiffs' office a few hours later, when they finally promised to deliver the silk on the following morning (1st. of October) at 9 o'clock under the conditions agreed upon the previous day.

8.—That all efforts on the part of the plaintiffs to get delivery of the silk purchased by them of the defendants remained fruitless, and that the defendants through the agency of Hagiwara finally in the afternoon of the 1st day of October flatly refused to deliver the silk in question unless they were paid in advance which of course the plaintiffs refused to do as it was contrary to their agreement.

The plaintiffs therefore pray this honorable court.

1.—That the defendants be ordered to give the plaintiffs immediate delivery of the 8 bales of silk sold to them,

2.—That the defendant be ordered to pay the costs of this suit.

3.—That the plaintiffs may have such further relief as the nature of the case may require and as to this honorable court may seem fit.

In answer to the plaintiffs' petition the defendants put in a demurrer.

They said that the defendants Kosekigumi had never sold plaintiffs the 8 bales of silk in question, and that consequently the plaintiffs had no right to sue. That therefore they

prayed that the plaintiffs' petition be dismissed.

At the request of the plaintiffs and up on their depositing \$600 the defendant was ordered by the court not to remove the silk in question until judgment should have been delivered.

Mr. Uchiyama Rossetsu represented the plaintiffs, Mr. Takanashi Tetsushiro appeared for the defendants. Mr. Uchiyama opened the case for the plaintiffs, saying: "The defendants denying the fact that they ever sold plaintiffs the 8 bales silk in question I find it my first duty to produce evidence that they did, and that they are consequently responsible for the delivery of the same. I now call Mr. Hagiwara Hikoshichi, the owner of the said silk. In answer to the questions of Mr. Uchiyama this witness stated:

I am a resident of Hachoji and am a silk spinner. (Plaintiffs' exhibit No. 1 handed the witness) I signed this paper. It is a document testifying to the plaintiffs that my 8 bales of silk those now in dispute were sold to plaintiffs through the agency of the defendants. On the 29th day of September last Nakajima Kosuke, a *banto* of the defendants, accompanied me to the plaintiffs for the purpose of arranging the sale of the 8 bales of silk in question. The agreement we came to was that the plaintiffs were to pay \$720 per picul and that delivery should not be taken from the Niadzukarisho, but in the same manner as it used to be before the Niadzukarisho existed. It was further agreed that the goods should be delivered on the same day, and the bargain was then concluded. The parties present at that time were Mr. H. Ludwig, the managing partner of H. Ludwig & Co. at Yokohama, Mr. Chamonard, plaintiffs' silk inspector, Mr. Hashimoto, one of plaintiffs' *banto*, one Shinsuke, *banto* of Sekitanya, myself and the aforesaid *banto* of defendants. The following morning I went to Mr. Ludwig's private residence in company of one Gunaya, at the request of the latter. The reason why the said Gunaya went to Mr. Ludwig was because he had found out that being a member of the Niadzukarisho he would have trouble by delivering the goods in question to the plaintiffs direct, and he therefore wanted to gain time in order to find some way by which the silk might be delivered to the purchasers without implicating himself. He went to persuade Mr. Ludwig to wait until or about the 16th. of October for the delivery of the silk, which the said Mr. Ludwig refused to do. At 11 o'clock a.m. of the same day we (Gunaya and myself) again went to the plaintiffs' office, when the plaintiffs' attorney Mr. Uchiyama, acted as intermediory. Gunaya admitted to Mr. Uchiyama that he had sold the goods, but said that he would get into trouble by delivering the goods direct. After a long conversation Gunaya at last agreed to let the plaintiffs have the silk in some way or other if they would wait until the following morning 9 o'clock. Mr. Ludwig agreed to wait until then, but refused to hear anything of the ways and means which Mr. Gunaya would employ in order to deliver plaintiffs their silk. The silk was never delivered.

Cross-examined by Mr. Takanashi.

My purpose in going to the plaintiffs' on the 29th. of September last was to sell them silk spun in my factory, altogether 12 bales. I sold the whole lot on that day, 4 bales which were already in the plaintiffs' godowns and the 8 bales now in dispute. I have done business with the plaintiffs since the year before last. I now owe plaintiffs \$1,000.



payable on the 30th. of September last. I did owe them \$3,000. payable on the 30th. of July, 30th. of August and 30th. of September, \$1,000. each time. I do not receive any salary from the plaintiffs. I am not in the habit of borrowing money from the plaintiffs to work my factory with. The only money I ever borrowed from them is the \$3,000 just mentioned, which I borrowed for the purpose of buying cocoons in the end of last June. This sum was to be repaid by silk shipments. The first 2 bales of the 4 mentioned as already being delivered to the plaintiffs went for the 30th. of July payment, the second 2 bales thereof are security for the 30th. of August payment. They are a part of the 12 bales sold to plaintiffs on the 29th. of September. The reason why I took defendants' *banto* with me on the 29th. of September was for the purpose of effecting the sale. I had heard that after the establishment of the Niadzukarisho it would be difficult to deliver silk to foreigners direct, but upon asking defendants was informed that mine being a contract made before establishing the said institution there would be no difficulty, whereupon they sent their *banto* with me. I did not show the plaintiffs a sample of the 8 bales in question; they agreed to buy it on my representing to them that it was the same as the 4 bales already in their possession. It was sold in the old manner, i.e. the plaintiffs were to take delivery at the price fixed at that time, if after inspection in plaintiffs' godown the silk was found to be according to sample. The price of the whole 12 bales was fixed on the 29th of September, the 4 bales already in plaintiffs' possession as well as the 8 bales held by the Kosekigumi. The price was fixed in the usual manner. I asked a certain price, the plaintiffs offered a lower one, and the final price was afterwards agreed upon by the intervention of the defendants' *banto*.

Re-examined by Mr. Uchiyama:

When I say that the goods in question were contracted for long ago by the plaintiffs, I mean that I am bound by contract to deliver them all my silk during one year. To my knowledge silk could not heretofore, nor can it now be sold to foreigners, without passing through the hands of a commission merchant.

Questioned by the court:—of the 4 bales already in the possession of the plaintiffs 2 were delivered by me on the 12th. of August and the other two on the 1st. of September last. I think that the Niadzukarisho cannot prevent my selling silk to foreigners, if I do it through a commission merchant who is not a member of said institution. In fact I am delivering silk that way now, but the Kosekigumi refuses to let me have the 8 bales in question. The Kosekigumi have given me an advance on these 8 bales. I don't see how the defendants can refuse me delivery of my silk, if, after selling the silk in question, I repay them this advance.

Mr. Uchiyama next called Mr. Chamonard, who stated the facts as given in the petition.

Cross-examined by Mr. Takanashi:—We did not buy the silk from Mr. Hagiwara, we bought it from the defendants. The price of the whole 12 bales was fixed on the 29th. of September. The defendants' *banto* Tosuke is the same who always represents Mr. Hagiwara when making silk sales to us. The price was not fixed by any new sample, but by the first two bales, which we had already inspected, upon the representation that the 8 bales were of the same quality. The whole lot was to have been inspected and weighed at the plaintiff's place. I have

never seen the 8 bales in dispute. I know that Mr. Hagiwara had an advance of \$3,000 from the plaintiffs, but, as I have nothing to do with the money transactions of the concern, I cannot say in which manner or when they were to be repaid. In the manner in which silk sales were carried on hitherto there was no godown rent paid while a man's silk was being inspected and weighed. If it were not according to sample it was simply returned, but without a godown-rent charge; if it was good and taken delivery of the buyer had still less reason for charging godown-rent. No bargain money was paid on the silk in question.

Re-examined:—Have you ever paid bargain money on transactions like the one in question?

Answer: Not to my knowledge.

Have you ever to your knowledge bought silk in Yokohama without its passing through the hands of a commission-merchant? No.

Mr. Uchiyama, addressing the court, said that the next witness would prove that Mr. Gunaya of the defendants' firm had called at Mr. Ludwig's private residence on the Bluff in order to get an extension of time, and that he (Mr. Uchiyama) wished to impress it on the court's mind that this was an entirely trust worthy witness not having any interest whatsoever in the issue of the present case, either pecuniary or otherwise. He then called Sugiyama Hampei, who deposed:—

I live in Isikawa and am a retailer of foreign goods. I am not an employé of Mr. Ludwig's but go to his house only occasionally, my pay depending on the number of days I work there. I was working at Mr. Ludwig's private residence on the 30th. of September, and remember 2 Japanese calling there on business early in the morning of that day. They spoke to Mr. Ludwig in the same room in which I was working. I do not know their names, but one was an old gentleman of about 60 years with white hair, a little below medium size. I would recognize him if I saw him again. The other was in court this morning when I heard him called Hagiwara. I heard the whole conversation which took place in the room where I was, but not understanding anything about mercantile transactions I can only remember very little. I think they spoke about silk because they often mentioned the word "Kori." The old gentleman tried to persuade Mr. Ludwig to wait a few days for delivery. Mr. Ludwig refused to do this, and insisted upon delivery the same day. They spoke a good deal which I however did not understand, whereupon they went into the hall and I heard nothing further.

Cross-examined by Mr. Takanashi:—I first went to Mr. Ludwig's house in the summer of this year. I heard the conversation as stated by me while at work in the same room where it went on. Mr. Ludwig sat near the door, I about 6 feet from him further in the room. I am not an employé of Mr. Ludwig. I work in other houses as well and get paid by the day.

Mr. Takanashi addressing the court said that he had no witness to call and that he did not consider it necessary since he objected to the evidence of plaintiffs' witnesses on the grounds that the first one, Mr. Hagiwara, was indebted to the plaintiffs; the next, Mr. Chamonard, an employé of them, and the third a man who while working alleged to have overheard a certain conversation and was therefore not trustworthy. I submit, therefore, he went on to say, that the plaintiffs' attorney has failed to prove the responsibility, or action of the defendants in the matter.

But supposing even that the defendants or one of their representatives had gone to the plaintiffs, as alleged, no bargain could have been made because no bargain money had been paid, and because it would not have been settled whether the plaintiffs would buy the silk in question until after inspection, when it was very often returned to the owner. Again the witness Hagiwara had stated that he himself had sold the silk, while Mr. Chamonard stated that the goods belonged to Mr. Hagiwara, but that the defendant's *banto* was the seller. Thus even supposing the silk in question to have been sold, it was not sold by the defendants, the contract was with Hagiwara himself and had nothing to do with the defendants.

Mr. Uchiyama in reply:—I submit that my three witnesses are perfectly trustworthy and no objection can be made to their evidence except perhaps, to that of Mr. Chamonard, as being an employé of the plaintiff firm. As to the bargain being completed I have proved by my witnesses that it was entirely completed in the usual manner, that is, the price being agreed upon the clapping together of the hands which the dealers in Yokohama call "to make pon pon." The defendant's counsel's statement that it could not be considered a concluded bargain because after inspection the silk might after all be returned to the seller, is ridiculous. If that were true, then every sale made the world over even those by written agreement, could not be counted concluded bargains, because no buyer could be forced to take delivery of goods which after inspection he found to be different from sample. The silk which is returned to Japanese dealers after inspection is so returned when it is found that the silk is not up to the sample by which the bargain was concluded, but if up to sample the buyer could never refuse to take delivery, and if he did refuse the seller could find ways and means to force him to take delivery.

Furthermore, the defendants' counsel in his answer to the petition has flatly denied that the defendant ever sold the 8 bales of silk in question to the plaintiffs, and that the plaintiffs had therefore no right to sue them. I submit that after such an answer the defendants have no right to now open for themselves a back-door for escape, by saying *that even if they had intermediated in this matter there was no reason for delivery of the goods because the bargain was not completed.* I most respectfully but firmly demand that the defendants be strictly kept to their original answer, namely that they never had anything to do with the matter.

As to defendants' counsel's statement that Mr. Hagiwara and Mr. Chamonard contradicted themselves, the one saying that he made the sale himself, the other that Mr. Hagiwara was represented by defendants' *banto*, I merely refer the court to the record where it will be seen that both witnesses make the same statement on that point, namely, both stating that the defendants' *banto* made the bargain. But leaving out every thing else, how does defendants' counsel account for the refusal of the Kosekigumi to deliver the silk in question even at the request of the former owner himself, (i.e. Hagiwara, the plaintiffs being the present owners.)?

I now beg that the court will order Mr. Uyehara, i. e. Gunaya to appear in court in person on to-morrow morning. I make this request on the grounds that I have brought sufficient evidence to show that the defendants did sell the 8 bales of silk in question to the plaintiffs, and that therefore

the defendants' counsel has misrepresented facts, perhaps innocently, but nevertheless he has misrepresented them. The representative of a plaintiff or a defendant according to the procedure in Japanese Courts may object to the calling of his client as long as he can answer all details and does not misrepresent facts, but as soon as he (knowingly or unknowingly) misrepresents facts, the other side has the right to demand that the said client be made to appear in person, and this is what I now do. After some objections on the part of Mr. Takanashi the court allowed Mr. Uchiyama's request and ordered Mr. Takanashi to bring the said Gunaya with him to-morrow morning at 9.30 till when the court adjourned.

Tuesday, October 25th., 1881.

H. LUDWIG & Co. vs. THE KOSEKIGUMI.

This was a claim to order the defendants to give plaintiffs immediate delivery of 8 bales of silk bought under the old conditions.

Mr. Uchiyama Rossetan appeared for the plaintiffs, Mr. Takanashi Tetsushiro represented the defendants.

On reassembling this morning the court asked Mr. Takanashi whether he had brought with him Mr. Gunaya, the principal manager of the Kosekigumi, to which Mr. Takanashi replied, that he had tried to do so, but that the said gentleman had gone to Tokio. He had however in his stead brought with him Mr. Fureya Ichiro, another manager of the defendants who would be fully as able to answer any questions put to him as Gunaya himself.

Mr. Uchiyama denied that the said Mr. Fureya could answer all the questions put to him, and begged to have his objection noted on the record of the court against the non-appearance of the said Gunaya, especially since he (Mr. Uchiyama) could prove through Mr. Hagiwara, that Gunaya was still in Yokohama last night long after the court had adjourned. He also begged that it be further noted in the record that he still reserved to himself the right to call the said Gunaya, if at the end of the hearing he should find it to be necessary.

Mr. Takanashi then begged leave to examine the witness Fureya principally in order to show his second point of defence, namely that even if the defendants had intermeddled in the matter they could not be made responsible in a case in court as they were nothing more than go-betweens.

The witness gave the following answers:—Being one of the managers of the defendants' firm I know all the transactions of the same. The defendants at present have 8 bales of silk in keeping which belong to Mr. Hagiwara. We are holding them, because an advance was made on them. Mr. Hagiwara never requested us to sell those 8 bales of silk. A commission merchant of silk is nothing more than a go-between, and he gets a certain commission which is paid by the seller not the buyer. The commission merchant cannot sell silk at any price he likes; he must consult with and ask the consent of the owner whereupon the bargain is made with the buyer. The defendants did not make any bargain for the sale of the 8 bales of silk on the 29th. of September last. The defendants are members of the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho.

Mr. Uchiyama objected to this witness on the ground of his being a member of the

defendants' firm and cross-examined him under protest.

Cross-examined:—A Japanese silk merchant heretofore could not and cannot now sell direct to a foreigner, he must arrange the sale through a commission merchant. The commission merchant, heretofore delivered the goods to the buyer, and the buyer did not pay the owner but the commission merchant, who, after deducting the advance made, handed the balance to the owner. If the silk was found on inspection to be inferior to sample and was returned, it was to the commission merchant that it was returned, not to the owner. Heretofore we have frequently delivered silk to the plaintiffs for Hagiwara, and we have always made Mr. Hagiwara advances on such silk. Our advances were always repaid us by Mr. Hagiwara after the buyer had taken delivery, weighed, inspected and paid for the silk, not before.

The next questions and answers are given *verbatim*.

That being the case and the goods in question being sold under the old conditions do you consider that you are justified in retaining the 8 bales in dispute on the ground that an advance was made on them? Mr. Takanashi objected to the putting of this question on the ground that the witness could not be made to say anything as to the justice or injustice of retaining the silk, that that was a point to be settled by the court.

Mr. Uchiyama contended that the question was relevant, because being a commission merchant and constantly making advances on silk witness was in duty bound to know how far his power to retain silk on which he had advanced money went, especially since the witness himself had stated that hitherto the advances were not repaid until after the buyer had taken delivery of and paid for the silk. The court sustained Mr. Takanashi's objection, because the witness might retain such silk, but that it was for the court to decide whether he be justified or not in doing so. Question over ruled.

Mr. Uchiyama continuing:

Q:—Do you know the meaning of the words "to make pon-pon" as used by silk dealers both native and foreign in Yokohama?

A:—Yes. It is a sign that a bargain has been concluded *i.e.* that parties have agreed upon a certain price for a certain lot by a certain sample.

Q:—After the "making of this pon-pon" then is the purchaser obliged to take delivery of the goods thus sold to him, if those goods are according to sample?

A:—Well, a great many foreigners have very bad practices on this point, they —

Mr. Uchiyama:—I am not asking you about any malpractices, because those are carried on by certain Japanese just as well as certain foreigners. I am asking whether among honest merchants you consider that the "pon-pon" is binding if the goods are up to sample?

Yes.

Re-examined by Mr. Takanashi:

A foreign silk merchant can buy silk from native dealers without it passing through the hands of a commission merchant.

Mr. Uchiyama here said:—Although this witness of the defendants has been rather beneficial to me than otherwise I now once more object to his evidence being received on two grounds.

1.—As I stated before as being a member of the defendants' firm, and

2.—Because he has grossly contradicted himself.

If the court will please to look at the record, it will find that when answering my questions in cross-examination he answered that no silk could be sold to a foreign merchant without a commission merchant, and now in re-examination he replies just the opposite to the same question only given in other words.

His Honor said that he himself had noticed the discrepancy and that he had just been on the point of asking the witness about it.

The witness then admitted that the answer given to Mr. Uchiyama was the true one.

Mr. Takanashi said that he was very sorry his witness should have made the mistake to admit a thing which in reality did not exist. He said it was a well-known fact that foreigners could buy direct without using a commission-merchant, and that the foreigners would not be well pleased if such a fact were made known to them.

Mr. Uchiyama said that if questioned there would be a great many things elicited which did not please the foreigners, and that although to his (Mr. Uchiyama's) knowledge there was no order from the Government existing which prevents native silk dealers from selling their silk to foreigners direct still the fact was there that they could not.

In answer to questions by the court the witness answered:—If the court had not attached the 8 bales of silk in dispute they would be at the disposal of Mr. Hagiwara, as he is the owner. They are deposited with us under the same conditions as heretofore. They were stored in the godowns of the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarijo by us, not by Mr. Hagiwara.

Mr. Uchiyama then addressing the court said that he did not now think it necessary to call any more witnesses, not even Mr. Gunaya. He submitted that he had proved not only that the defendants had made the sale of the 8 bales in question, but he had gone further and shown that the bargain was concluded, and that the commission merchant was the responsible party. He therefore asked for judgment for the plaintiffs on all points.

Mr. Takanashi contended that his answer to the petition being a demurrer the court would first have to decide whether or not the defendants were responsible and that not until then would he have to defend the real action itself.

Mr. Uchiyama objected strongly against such proceedings on the ground that the only point in this case was whether the defendants had sold the silk in question to plaintiffs or not, that point settled all there is to be done is to order them to deliver it.

The court sustained Mr. Uchiyama's objection. His Honor said that in the present case he could see no reason why an interim judgment should be given. Both parties had brought evidence for and against all points upon which the whole suit rested, and an interim judgment would merely prolong matters, especially since the defendant might appeal from the same. He would therefore give judgment on the whole case in a few days.

Neither party having any further remarks the court then adjourned *sine die*.

Friday, October 28th, 1881.

H. LUDWIG & Co. vs. THE KOSEKIGUMI.

This was a claim to order the defendants to deliver 8 bales of silk sold by them to the plaintiffs, of which 8 bales they had refused plaintiffs delivery.

Mr. Uchiyama Rossatan appeared for the plaintiffs, Mr. Takanashi Tetsushiro represented the defendant.

To-day the court gave the following

JUDGMENT.

The principal points in this case are as follows:—

1.—Did the defendants have anything to do with the sale of the 8 bales of silk in question, or did they not?

2.—And if they did are they responsible to the defendants in this case or not?

3.—Was the bargain for the 8 bales of silk in question concluded, or was it not?

1.—The defendants' counsel stated that the defendants had nothing whatsoever to do with the sale of the 8 bales of silk in question, but the statement of Hagiwara Hikoshichi, the owner of the silk, shows, that a contract was made during January of this year, by which the said Hagiwara agreed to sell plaintiffs the said silk, and that he on the 29th September last sold 12 bales of these goods to the plaintiffs at the price of \$720 per picul through the defendants, that 4 bales of this silk were already in the hands of the plaintiffs, and that when it came to giving delivery of the remaining 8 bales the defendants raised objections.

2.—Regarding the second point the defendants' counsel stated that the defendants being merely commission merchants and not the actual sellers, it was in any case only their duty to act as go-betweens between the owner of the silk and the foreign buyer, so that even, granting for argument's sake that the defendants had had anything to do with the sale of the silk in question, they are not the parties to be made responsible in this action.

On examining the witnesses of both parties on this point it cannot be said that the defendants really stand in the relation of sellers towards the plaintiffs, but the plaintiffs are nevertheless right in making them the defendants in this action, because the plaintiffs having bought Hagiwara Hikoshichi's silk through the intervention of the defendants, the latter who have charge of this silk, refused to give delivery thereof in spite of the owner's request to do so, which refusal has given rise to the present action.

3.—The defendant's counsel alleges that according to the statements of the plaintiffs as also of the owner of the silk the bargain is not concluded until the silk has been inspected by the buyer, but as long as the owner has no objection to this, the commission merchant certainly has no right to raise difficulties. Besides this contract appears to be one made under old conditions, and under those it is clear that the goods should be inspected in the buyer's godowns, wherefore neither party is justified in raising difficulties about the delivery as long as the goods have not been inspected.

The court therefore orders the defendants (the Kosekigumi) to deliver to the plaintiffs the 8 bales of Hachioji silk belonging to Hagiwara Hikoshichi, and now stored in the godowns of the Bengo Kiito Niadzukarisho, and orders the defendants to get the amount of the advance made on this silk from Hagiwara Hikoshichi, the owner thereof.

IN THE NETHERLAND'S CONSULAR COURT.

Before F. G. SCRIBE Esq., Acting Consul.

J. WOLFS Esq. and A. REIMERS Esq.,  
Assessors.

Thursday, 27th. October, 1881.

SEPTIMUS SHORT v. J. P. VON HEMERT.

Mr. LOWDER appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. KIRKWOOD for the defendant.

Mr. Lowder on behalf of his client read the following petition:—

IN H. N. M.'s COURT.

SEPTIMUS SHORT, Plaintiff

and

J. P. VON HEMERT, Defendant.

The petition of Septimus Short the above named plaintiff sheweth as follows:—

1.—The plaintiff is a British subject resident at Sheffield in the county of York in Great Britain.

2.—The defendant is a Dutch subject carrying on business as a merchant at No. 25 Yokohama.

3.—In the month of August 1878, the Director of a Hotel in Yokohama known as the "Grand Hotel" and situated on the lot of land known as No. 20, Yokohama being desirous of raising money for the purpose of providing and paying for furniture for the said hotel issued debentures of the value of five hundred Mexican dollars each bearing interest at the rate of fifteen per cent. per annum and the public were invited to purchase the same.

4.—To secure the purchasers of the said debentures all the furniture in the said Grand Hotel on the 13th. day of August 1878 was by the director of the Grand Hotel assigned by the bill of sale duly registered to Frederick Victor Dickins and John Grigor as trustees for the debenture holders.

5.—At a date prior to the act of the defendant hereinafter set forth the plaintiff became and still continues the lawful purchaser, holder and possessor of the said debentures.

6. In about the month of June 1878 the defendant unlawfully seized and took possession of all the furniture aforesaid and without the consent of the plaintiff caused the same to be sold and the defendant received the proceeds of the sale thereof.

7.—By reason of the act of the defendant as aforesaid the plaintiff lost his security for the repayment to him of the value of his said debentures and the interest then due and to accrue thereon.

8.—The plaintiff has repeatedly applied to the defendant to make good to him the loss so occasioned to the plaintiff by the defendant as aforesaid, but the defendant has refused and still refuses to recognise any liability towards the plaintiff or to pay him anything whatsoever in respect of his said debentures.

The plaintiff therefore prays:—

1.—That the defendant may be ordered forthwith to pay to the plaintiff the sum of \$5,000 or such other sum as to this honorable court may seem fit with interest thereon at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum from the 1st. day of January, 1876.

2.—That the defendant may be condemned to pay the costs of this suit.

3.—That the plaintiff may have such further other relief as the nature of the case may require.

(Signed.)

SEPTIMUS SHORT,

by his attorney W. H. TAYLOR  
of No. 35, Yokohama.

by his counsel F. LOWDER,  
Barrister at law.

To which Mr. Kirkwood put in the following reply:—

1.—The defendant admits the truth of articles Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 in the plaintiff's petition but requests this honorable court that he may be called upon to produce either the original or a copy of the bill of sale mentioned in paragraph 4.

2.—The defendant denies the truth of the charges contained in paras. 5, 6, and 7 of the plaintiff's petition and demands that the ten bonds mentioned therein may be deposited in court so that he may know their numbers.

3.—The defendant admits the truth of the charge contained in paragraph 8, of the petition.

4.—The plaintiff asserts that the furniture of the Grand Hotel was put up for sale by him in the month of June 1878, but that the sale was made with the consent and approval of Frederick Victor Dickins one of the persons mentioned in the fourth paragraph of the said petition and with the consent of all the debenture holders with the exception of John Grigor the other person mentioned in paragraph 4, and his brother John M. Grigor.

5.—The said John Grigor had then in his possession 18 debentures but he and the said F. V. Dickins as well as the other debenture holders have given full quitance to the defendant for the proceeds of the sale and his discharge for everything concerned in the sale.

6.—It will be seen that all the furniture in the Grand Hotel belonged to F. V. Dickins and John Grigor by virtue of a bill of sale and that they alone can proceed against the defendant for an illegal seizure of the said furniture and that the plaintiff in this suit has no legal right to claim possession of the said furniture or to receive any proceeds of its sale.

The defendant therefore prays this court that plaintiff may be ordered to pay the sum of \$750 to defray damages and interest.

After some arguments between counsel the court retired, and after a brief interval returned and gave the following

JUDGMENT.

Considering that the production of the bill of sale referred to in art. 4 of the petition of the plaintiff is necessary for the instruction of the court. Considering arts. 51 and 52 of the Netherlands law of July 1871 and especially art. 133 of the code of civil procedure of the Netherlands, the court orders the plaintiff to produce at his own cost the copy of the said bill of sale.

Further as to the deposit for costs, damages, and interest, considering art 152 of the same law and art 21 of the law of 27 July 1871 where it is held that all foreigners bringing an action before a Dutch court must deposit a certain amount to meet the costs, damages and interest, in which they eventually could be condemned if so requested by the defendant, the court decides that a further sum of two hundred dollars shall be deposited with the court by the plaintiff. The next hearing of the case will take place on Wednesday next, 2nd. Nov., at 10 a.m.

Before the court rose Mr. Lowder asked that Mr. Bourne's evidence might be taken as it was of some importance.

William Bourne, auctioneer, sworn said he remembered receiving instructions during the month of June 1878 to sell the furniture in the Grand Hotel from Mr. von Hemert and afterwards from Mr. Dickins who signed for the majority of the debenture holders. The letter containing the order he believed was deposited in the English court. Witness did not think he could get the letter back. Cannot remember the exact contents of the letter. Sold the furniture of the Grand Hotel and handed the net proceeds to Mr. von Hemert.

By Mr. Kirkwood:—I sold the premises and the furniture in one lot on the same day and rendered the account sale accordingly in the sum of \$21,000. Prior to the sale the furniture was valued at \$5,000. I expressed an opinion that the furniture would fetch a better price if sold on the premises. I had instructions from Mr. von Hemert to sell the premises.

The court was then adjourned until Wednesday next 2nd. November at 10 a.m.

#### IN H. B. M.'S COURT FOR JAPAN.

Before RUSSELL ROBERTSON, Esq., *Act. Judge.*

*Saturday, 29th. October, 1881.*

CLARKE v. JAFFRAY.

This was adjourned from the 14th. inst., when the plaintiff moved for a new trial and decision was reserved.

Mr. Kirkwood appeared for the defendant and objected to the affidavits filed by the plaintiff on the ground that they were not framed in accordance with existing regulations. He pointed out several instances in which they were defective and said that although Mr. Clarke had every chance given him to comply with the law he had failed to do so.

The learned council then read several sections of the Act of Parliament relative to the taking of affirmations and submitted that the court had no option but to refuse the application for a rehearing as it had not a tittle of evidence before it to satisfy it that the Japanese affirmations had been made in conformity with the law and customs of the land and that as affirmations they do not comply with the requirements of English procedure relative to the evidence of persons who object to take an oath.

His Honor admitted that the affidavits of Messrs. Kuchler and Clarke were defective and must be amended. He gave the plaintiff leave to produce new ones, which must be filed before the 1st Nov.

Mr. Kirkwood gave the plaintiff verbal notice that the attendance of the deponents would be required to prove the authenticity of the documents.

The court then adjourned.

A curious experiment, it is stated, is being tried in several corps of the Russian army. This consists in the introduction of dogs instead of men as sentries. For this duty the wolf dog of the Ural Mountains is found most suitable, as this animal will growl at the presence of an intruder, instead of barking outright, and thus inciting all the dogs in camp to do likewise.—*Times of India.*

#### YOKOHAMA.

(*Hongkong Daily Press Correspondent.*)

There is a rumour, but of very doubtful character, that the renowned Mr. E. H. House, formerly known here in connection with that scurrilous but now defunct publication the *Tokio Times*, is trying hard to obtain the post of United States Consul at this port, possibly to be once more among his numerous (?) friends. It is questionable, however, whether there is an American either in Yokohama or Tokio who would consider that individual worthy of representing his nationality in any shape or form, and it is generally thought that the authorities at Washington will hesitate to appoint a person of Mr. House's well known proclivities to such an important position.

That compulsory registering one's self at the British Consulate every twelve months is still a bone of contention with some. Not for the \$5 one has to pay each time, but all Britishers consider it (and very justly too) a most obnoxious and unnecessary compulsion. At times, it is enforced under rather peculiar circumstances, as the following case will show, and it would have been more to the credit of the Consular official concerned if the matter had never been brought forward. Mr. Martin Dohmen (a native of Holland by the way) acting as Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at this port, has thought fit to show what is considered petty spite toward one of our leading and most esteemed residents. In May last year, Mr. Edward Whittall went home for a trip and returned in August of the present year. Soon after his arrival, the above named astute official indited a letter to that gentleman requesting him to register himself forthwith. In reply, Mr. Whittall said that as any one arriving towards the end of the year was generally allowed to wait until the commencement of a new year before registering, he thought himself entitled to the same consideration and would therefore wait (with the Consul's permission) until then, when he would go through the necessary form. However, the Acting Consul could not see the force of the argument and issued a summons accordingly. The case was tried before Mr. Russell Robertson (who is virtually Consul here but at present Acting Judge of H. M.'s Provincial Court in place of Judge Rennie, absent on leave), and Mr. Dohmen occupied a seat on the bench. In explaining his reasons to the Court for not complying with Mr. Dohmen's request, Mr. Whittall pointed out the fact that there were a good many others who had arrived before him but who had not been called on to register themselves, and he thought it unfair that he should be the only one selected out of the number and be forced, maliciously, to conform with Mr. Acting Consul's order. Mr. Robertson said if Mr. Dohmen felt satisfied with the explanation, he would dismiss the case, but Mr. Acting Consul Dohmen wanted to show off his dignity and was not satisfied. The Court therefore ordered Mr. Whittall, to pay costs and register himself, against which that gentleman most properly gave notice of appeal and asked that, as the proceedings taken were malicious, whether he could bring the matter forward in that light. His Honour suggested that he should mention it in his appeal. The sooner Mr. Dohmen returns from whence he came (Tokio) the better; this community will greatly appreciate his absence.

One of the native papers says a great reform (?) has been recently made in the Mitsui Bishi Company in cutting down their employes' salaries in the following proportion:—Wages of more than yen 200, two-thirds; Yen 100, one-half; Yen 50, one-third; Yen 30, one-fourth; by which the Company can save Yen 20,000 annually. This (which appears to be a move in a doubtful direction) looks very much as if the Company was in a similar position to some of our local public institutions, and it can hardly be doubted that many of the vessels are a continual drag on the Company's resources to pay running expenses, as the ridiculously small cargoes they often take away and return which cannot even pay for the coal consumed. Mr. Frederick Krebs, the Foreign Director, is absent on an inspecting tour to some of the Company's branches, which probably accounts for the complaints of the laxity shown lately at the Head office.

There is a rumour of a change as likely to take place in the Foreign Diplomatic circle in this country, namely, that Mr. Bingham, the present American Minister, is leaving for home, and is to be succeeded by General Van Buren, now United States Consul-General here. It would give universal satisfaction to the many friends of the General to see him occupy that important position which he is so eminently fitted to fill in every respect. No previous official has ever filled the United States Consular chair at this port with so much grace and dignity as the present learned gentleman, and in the event of his promotion, the Consular Service will lose one of its brightest ornaments, only, however, to shine in a wider field of usefulness—usefulness on behalf of the country he so worthily represents.

#### DESTRUCTIVE FLOODS AT HAIPHONG

We learn that on the 8th. October a typhoon visited Haiphong and Talle, causing terrible destruction and loss of life. The wind blew with tremendous violence, and the heavy sea flooded the whole of the surrounding country. In Talle there were six feet of water in the houses three and four miles distant from the sea shore. The current was so strong that it swept away the entire town, the number of person drowned being estimated at over 3,000. The paddy fields throughout the district have been completely ruined. A large number of the boats which convey the rice from the interior of the country to Haiphong have been sunk, and others have had their cargoes damaged. It is reported that the value of the rice lost and damaged will amount to over \$300,000. At Haiphong two pilot boats foundered, one of the pilots and his crew being drowned.

TOTAL LOSS OF THE "QUINTA."—We have received information that the steamer *Quinta*, about which so much anxiety has been felt, has at last been discovered to be a total wreck on the Island of Taichow, Tinhosa, after anchoring for shelter in a typhoon but we are glad to have to record that no lives have been lost. The *Kang-chi* went down to Taichow on Sunday (16th. October) to bring up the wrecked people, two of whom had walked overland to Hoihow to report the ship's position. One man, a European, says the natives looted the cargo and set fire to the ship, but the other, a Chinaman, says the fire occurred accidentally. The Commissioner of Customs and Harbour-Master at Hoihow, have gone to the wreck.—*Hongkong Telegraph.*



About noon yesterday (Oct. 27th.) the U. S. S. *Ashuelot* steamed out of port after a stay of almost six months. The officers made so many friends among the foreign community during their residence, that a very general feeling of regret will be felt at the vessel's departure. It would be unjust to the ship's company of the *Ashuelot* to omit mention of the extremely creditable manner in which the men behaved while in this port, as their conduct has as far as we can learn been quite exceptional.

While here some important alterations were effected in the *Ashuelot* by Messrs. E. C. Kirby & Co., and we understand the work elicited the unqualified commendations of the officers, which speaks well for the remarkable facilities—for this part of the world—possessed by the Kobe Iron Works.

The *Ashuelot* proceeds to Tientsin via Nagasaki, and after passing the winter there will probably return to Kobe for the summer.

The example of the Yokohama Japanese silk brokers appears to be exciting the emulation of the Kobe traders in foreign goods. In the *Osaka Nippon* it is stated that the local dealers are contemplating forming a guild to monopolize and control the import business. This, as we pointed out when the Yokohama guild was first mooted, is the inevitable outcome of the northern association, and if the foreign silkmen are compelled to accede to the conditions attempted to be imposed on them, the merchants of Kobe may prepare either to combat cognate attempts to rule trade, or seek some means to lighten as far as practicable the coming burden.—*Hiogo News*.

## Shipping.

### ARRIVALS.

- Oct. 20, Jap. str. *Chishima-Maru*, Walker, —, from the North, General, to M. B. Co.  
 Oct. 21, Jap. str. *Sumida-Maru*, Hubenet, 896, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.  
 Oct. 21, H. B. M. Corvette *Bacchante*, Right Hon. Lord Charles T. M. D. Scott, 16-guns, 4,130 tons, 5,420 H.P., from Brisbane, 20th Aug., and Fiji, 10th Sept.  
 Oct. 21, H. B. M. Corvette *Carysfort*, Henry F. Stephenson, C.B., 14-guns, 220 men, 2,880 tons, 2,400 H.P., from Brisbane, 20th Aug., and Fiji, 10th Sept.  
 Oct. 21, H. B. M. Frigate *Inconstant*, Charles C. P. Fitzgerald, bearing the Flag of Rear Admiral Right Hon. the Earl of Clanwilliam, C.B., 16-guns, 5,780 tons, 7,840 H.P., 560 men, from Brisbane, 20th Aug., and Fiji, 10th Sept.  
 Oct. 21, H. B. M. Corvette *Cleopatra*, Francis Durrant, 14-guns, 245 men, 2,380 tons, 2,610 H.P., from Brisbane, 20th Aug., and Fiji, 10th Sept.  
 Oct. 22, H. B. M. sloop *Pegasus*, Comd. Day, 1,137 tons, 6-guns, 940 H.P., 120 men, from a cruise.  
 Oct. 22, H. B. M. Corvette *Tourmaline*, Robert P. Dennistown, 12-guns, 238 men, 2,100 tons, 1,970 H.P., from Brisbane, 20th Aug., and Fiji, 10th Sept.  
 Oct. 22, Jap. str. *Tokio-Maru*, Swain, 2,119, from Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.  
 Oct. 24, Jap. str. *Niigata-Maru*, Wynn, 1,603, from Hongkong via Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.  
 Oct. 24, Am. str. *City of Peking*, Berry, 5,079, from Hongkong, Mails and General, to P. M. Co.  
 Oct. 24, Am. gunboat *Suvarata*, Commander Simpson, 1,900 tons, — H.P., from Nagasaki.  
 Oct. 25, Jap. str. *Kokonoye-Maru*, Dithlefsen, 1,133, from Hakodate, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.  
 Oct. 25, H. B. M. surveying-vessel *Flying Fish*, Lieut.-Comd. Hoskyn, 4-guns, 836 H.P., 78 men, from Hakodate.  
 Oct. 25, Jap. str. *Hiogo-Maru*, Walker, 896, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.  
 Oct. 26, Brit. barq. *Charlwood*, Hiscocks, 887, from London, June 1st, General, to A. Reimers & Co.

- Oct. 26, Brit. str. *Castello*, Coates, 1,485, from Kobe, General, to Smith, Baker & Co.  
 Oct. 27, Jap. str. *Nagoya-Maru*, Walker, 1,914, from Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.  
 Oct. 28, Jap. str. *Wakanoura-Maru*, Christensen, 1,300, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.  
 Oct. 29, Brit. str. *Oceanic*, Metcalfe, 3,700, from San Francisco, Mails and General, to O. & O. Co.  
 Oct. 31, Brit. str. *Sunda*, Reeves, 1,704, from Hongkong via Nagasaki, Mails and General, to P. & O. Co.  
 Oct. 31, Brit. barq. *Royal Tar*, J. Graves, 598, from Newcastle, N.S.W., Coals and General, to Walsh, Hall & Co.  
 Oct. 31, Jap. str. *Suminoye-Maru*, Frahm, 853, from Hakodate, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.  
 Oct. 31, Jap. str. *Akitsuishima-Maru*, Frahm, 1,148, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.  
 Nov. 1, Jap. barq. *Awajishima-Maru*, Creighton, 660, from Nagasaki, Coals, to M. B. Co.  
 Nov. 1, Jap. str. *Toyoshima-Maru*, Hubbard, 598, from Nagasaki, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.  
 Nov. 2, German corvette *Stosch*, Capt. Wans, 3,000 tons, 16 guns, 400 men, from Chefoo via Amoy.  
 Nov. 2, Ger. barq. *Pallas*, Lueders, 493, from Hakodate, Oct. 26th, General, to Iida Kamekitchi.  
 Nov. 2, Am. schr. *Otter*, Littlejohn, 74, from Kurile Islands, Skins to J. E. Collyer.  
 Nov. 4, Brit. str. *Bengloe*, Webster, 1,198, from London, via Hongkong, General, to Mourilyan, Heiman & Co.  
 Nov. 4, Froh. str. *Tenais*, Reynier, 1,785, from Hongkong, Mails and General, to M. M. Co.  
 Nov. 4, Jap. str. *Gonkai-Maru*, Conner, 1,917, from Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.  
 Nov. 6, Brit. str. *Gaelic*, Kidley, 2,704, from Hongkong, Mails and General, to O. & O. Co.  
 Nov. 7, Jap. str. *Takasago-Maru*, Young, 1,280, from Hongkong via Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.  
 Nov. 7, Am. ship *Annie W. Weston*, Winsor, 740, from Newcastle, N.S.W., 16th Sept., Coals, to Walsh, Hall & Co.

### DEPARTURES.

- Oct. 19, Jap. str. *Hiogo-Maru*, Walker, 896, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. Co.  
 Oct. 19, H. B. M. screw-sloop *Albatross*, Comd. Errington, 727 tons, 4-guns, 838 H.P., 125 men, for Shanghai via Kobe.  
 Oct. 19, Jap. str. *Hiroshima-Maru*, Haswell, 1,870, for Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. Co.  
 Oct. 21, Brit. str. *Malacca*, Weighell, 1,709, for Hongkong via Hiogo and Nagasaki, Mails and General, despatched by P. & O. Co.  
 Oct. 21, Am. ship *J. A. Thomson*, Rogers, 1,844, for Victoria, Ballast, despatched by Adamson, Bell & Co.  
 Oct. 22, Brit. str. *Alconover*, Murray, 1,611, for Kobe, General, despatched by Smith, Baker & Co.  
 Oct. 22, Jap. str. *Kumamoto-Maru*, Drummond, 1,240, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. Co.  
 Oct. 22, Jap. str. *Wakanoura-Maru*, Christensen, 1,300, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. Co.  
 Oct. 24, Jap. str. *Tamawara-Maru*, Carrew, 558, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. Co.  
 Oct. 24, Brit. str. *Breconshire*, Williams, 1,265, for Kobe via Yokosuka, General, despatched by Adamson, Bell & Co.  
 Oct. 24, Brit. barq. *Raven*, Veal, 353, for Hiogo, Ballast, despatched by Order.  
 Oct. 24, Jap. str. *Sumida-Maru*, Hubenet, 896, for Hiogo, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. Co.  
 Oct. 26, Am. str. *City of Peking*, Berry, 5,079, for San Francisco, Mails and General, despatched by P. M. Co.  
 Oct. 26, Jap. str. *Tokio-Maru*, Swain, 2,119, for Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. Co.  
 Oct. 28, Am. ship *Lucile*, A. Talbot, 1,894, for San Francisco, Tea, despatched by John Middleton.  
 Oct. 28, Jap. barq. *Kanagawa-Maru*, Eekstrand, 1,184, for Nagasaki, Ballast, despatched by M. B. Co.  
 Oct. 29, Froh. str. *Volga*, Guirand, 1,502, for Hongkong, &c., Mails and General, despatched by M. M. Co.  
 Oct. 30, Jap. str. *Hiogo-Maru*, Walker, 896, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. Co.

- Oct. 29, Jap. str. *Kokonoye-Maru*, Dithlefsen, 1,133, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. Co.  
 Oct. 29, Jap. str. *Sumida-Maru*, Hubenet, 896, for Hongkong via Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. Co.  
 Oct. 30, Jap. barq. *Kiinokuni-Maru*, Nichols, 960, for Nagasaki, Ballast, despatched by M. B. Co.  
 Oct. 31, Brit. ship *Lawrence Delap*, Groves, 1,655, for San Francisco, Ballast, despatched by Jardine, Matheson & Co.  
 Oct. 31, Brit. str. *Oceanic*, Metcalfe, 3,700, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by O. & O. Co.  
 Nov. 1, H. B. M. Frigate *Inconstant*, Charles C. P. Fitzgerald, bearing the Flag of Rear Admiral Right Hon. the Earl of Clanwilliam, C.B., 16-guns, 5,780 tons, 7,840 H.P., 560 men, for Kobe.  
 Nov. 1, H. B. M. Corvette *Cleopatra*, Francis Durrant, 14-guns, 245 men, 2,380 tons, 2,610 H.P., for Kobe.  
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 Nov. 1, H. B. M. Corvette *Tourmaline*, Robert P. Dennistown, 12-guns, 238 men, 2,120 tons, 1,970 H.P., for Kobe.  
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 Nov. 2, Jap. str. *Wakanoura-Maru*, Christensen, 1,300, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. Co.  
 Nov. 2, Jap. str. *Nagoya-Maru*, Walker, 1,914, for Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. Co.  
 Nov. 2, Jap. str. *Akitsuishima-Maru*, Frahm, 1,148, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. Co.  
 Nov. 2, H. B. M. despatch-vessel *Vigilant*, Lieut.-Comd. Lindsay, 985 tons, 2-guns, 1,815 H.P., 60 men, for Shanghai.  
 Nov. 3, Brit. str. *Sunda*, Reeves, 1,704, for Hongkong via Hiogo and Nagasaki, Mails and General, despatched by P. & O. Co.  
 Nov. 4, Jap. str. *Suminoye-Maru*, Frahm, 853, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. Co.  
 Nov. 4, H. B. M. gun-boat *Zephyr*, Lieut.-Comd. Pollard, 4-guns, 534 H.P., 60 men, for Kobe.  
 Nov. 7, Jap. str. *Toyoshima-Maru*, Hubbard, 598, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. Co.  
 Nov. 8, Brit. str. *Castello*, Coates, 1,485, for New York via Japan and China ports, Tea and General, despatched by Smith, Baker & Co.

### PASSENGERS.

- Per Jap. str. *Hiroshima-Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Conover, Revd. H. Loomis, Miss Spencer, Mrs. and Miss Eady, Mrs. Voile, Messrs. R. Scott, B. O. Scott, M. Ginsburg, M. M. Bair, W. H. Horeman, C. E. Lewis, H. M. Talbot, Otto Reimers, 10 Japanese and 2 Koreans in cabin.  
 Per Jap. str. *Sumida-Maru* from Kobe:—300 Japanese in steerage.  
 Per Brit. str. *Malacca*, for Hongkong:—Dr. Samuel Kneeland, Lieut. W. S. Levett, General and Mrs. Mitchell, Mr. E. McCard, Mr. and Mrs. Townley, Mr. H. Thomsen and Mrs. Hurst in cabin; 1 Indian and 6 Chinese in steerage.  
 Per Jap. str. *Tokio-Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Mrs. M. F. Crawford, Mrs. Tolanda, Mr. and Mrs. Carter and 2 children, Mons. Tony Contes, Bishop C. M. Williams, Messrs. Lorensten, R. Ho bun, D. M. Henderson, A. Landells, C. Hopper, H. H. Toland, Frelut, Maesen, Geo. Sales, and 7 Japanese in cabin; 2 Europeans, 3 Chinese and 117 Japanese in steerage. For San Francisco: Mr. W. H. Tattie in cabin.  
 Per Am. str. *City of Peking* from Hongkong for San Francisco:—Messrs. C. J. Stock, E. J. Lougard, J. F. McLeod; 2 Europeans and 1,013 Chinese in steerage.  
 Per Jap. str. *Niigata-Maru* from Hongkong via Kobe:—Mr. C. Andrade, U.S.N., Dr. W. Owen, R.A., Mr. H. H. Vacker, Mr. Ed. Gourman, Capt. Black, Miss Belmont and 1 Japanese in cabin; and 1 European, 3 Chinese and 92 Japanese in steerage.  
 Per Brit. str. *Breconshire*, for Kobe via Yokosuka:—Mr. F. White.  
 Per Jap. str. *Kokonoye-Maru* from Hakodate:—318 Japanese in steerage.  
 Per Jap. str. *Hiogo-Maru* from Kobe:—Mr. F. Krebs in cabin.  
 Per Jap. str. *Toyoshima-Maru* from Nagasaki:—2 Japanese in steerage.

## REPORTS.

Per Am. str. *City of Peking*, for San Francisco:—Mrs. P. Thornton, Messrs. C. J. Stook, E. J. Longard, J. F. McLeod, J. R. Stevens and L. D. Cooper in cabin; 4 Europeans and 999 Chinese in steerage. For New York: Mrs. M. T. Crawford, Rev. J. C. Carter, wife and 2 children. Messrs. C. Andrade, u.s.n., W. H. Tottis, and W. H. Robertson in cabin. For Liverpool: Rev. A. H. Barrow, Messrs. M. Loeb, M. C. Hillier, and Edwin Gamman in cabin. For Glasgow: Mr. E. Lilley and child in cabin.

Per Brit. str. *Castello*, from Kobe:—200 Japanese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Tokio-Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Rev. J. MacCormick, Doctor E. H. Green, u.s.n., Messrs. D. M. Henderson, A. Landells, J. H. Maclehoese, Geo. H. Earle and 6 Japanese in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Nagoya-Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Mrs. Masfen, Count Nicolas Seebach and servant, Captain Burdis, Captain Frank, Rev. T. T. Alexander, Rev. C. F. Warren, Rev. D. Loomis, Dr. J. C. Berry, Dr. G. Maget, Messrs. P. Le Lapeyre and servant Sim, Macpherson, Hall, Gillingham, Host, Fors, Fraser, Wiggins, Hagius, Allen, Winckler, You Nue Yuen and 10 Japanese in cabin; 200 Japanese, 2 Europeans and 2 Chinese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Wakanoura-Maru*, from Kobe:—Mr. E. O. Kirby, 7 Japanese and 10 Koreans in cabin; and 170 Japanese in steerage.

Per Froh. str. *Volga*, for Hongkong: Messrs. Allen Gay, Van Delden, Edward H. Hill, A. Berry, E. Serres, A. Ricquier, Van Ryn; and one Indian.

Per Brit. str. *Oceanic*, from San Francisco:—Dr. V. B. Hubbard, u.s.a., Sir James Bain, Rev. J. H. Laughlin and wife, Miss M. E. Reade, Rev. J. B. Porter, Dr. H. R. Smith and wife, Miss Ida B. Tiffany, Miss Shigo Negai, Rev. Geo. F. Fitch and family, Miss Luis Wakayama, Messrs. F. B. Windham, E. Howell Brown, H. Delacamp, W. S. Patterson, A. M. Eckford, J. R. Martin, u.s.n., T. J. MacDonal, B. F. Gubelman, u.s.n., Geo. J. Helland, A. McLaggan, S. Yonehi, J. B. Willes, E. B. Willes, Francis Skenachous, and 24 Chinese Students in cabin; 1 European in steerage. For Hongkong: Mrs. A. Huber and family, Mrs. Godwin, Messrs. Gilbert, Wm. Davenport, and Henry Green in cabin; 826 Chinese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Sumi-Maru* for Hongkong via Kobe:—5 Japanese in cabin.

Per Brit. str. *Sunda*, from Hongkong via Nagasaki:—Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Booth and child, Messrs. E. Chastel, J. Reid; and eight Chinese on deck.

Per Jap. str. *Suminoye-Maru* from Hakodate:—Miss Holmes, Mrs. Schluter and Mr. Boyd and 4 Japanese in cabin; and 150 Japanese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Akitushima-Maru*, from Kobe:—Messrs. F. E. White, Morris, and Morton in cabin; 120 Japanese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Nagoya-Maru*, for Shanghai:—Mr. and Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Eckford, Mr. T. J. MacDonald, Rev. J. D. Fitch, wife and 3 children. Dr. Smith and wife, Miss I. Tiffany, Rev. J. H. Laughlin and wife, Master Chiattaoye, Mr. Talant, Mr. Trube, two Japanese, and 24 Chinese students in the cabin. For Nagasaki: Mr. Helland in the cabin. For Kobe: Messrs. D. Fraser, A. C. Sim, Gillingham, Fors, Kelto, Tuck Ching, J. M. Martin, B. T. Gubelman, R. B. Cuthbertson, J. Payne, J. R. Hall, C. F. Warren, C. Hopper, E. C. Kirby, Dr. Hubbard, and 5 Japanese in the cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Genkai-Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Paymaster and Mrs. Harris, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Grigor, Mr. and Mrs. Rasch and five children, Messrs. F. B. Sherman, L. L. Forbes, Geo. Thyen, Hbaza, Mulder, E. Bonger, Blum, Yen Sen Ben, and 10 Japanese in cabin; 3 Europeans, 3 Chinese and 195 Japanese in steerage.

Per Froh. str. *Tanais*, from Hongkong:—Messrs. Kellner, Hoizume, Yokoyama, Meizuno, Suti-Ki-Chinda, Yokogawa, Sanda, Mori and Mrs. Winter in cabin.

Per Brit. str. *Sunda* for Hongkong via Nagasaki:—Mrs. Bellasis, Mrs. Choy Chee, Mrs. Quan Yue and infant, Mr. and Mrs. Haffenden and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. G. Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. Collins, Mrs. H. Rhees and servant, Mrs. Ashigawa and servant, Mrs. Chastel, Lieut. and Mrs. Barclay, Mr. J. P. Reid, Mrs. Y. Kai Peng, Mr. and Mrs. Keep, Mr. E. Marcus, Mr. W. Owen in cabin; and 11 Chinese in steerage.

Per Brit. str. *Gaelic*, from Hongkong:—Miss Cameron, Dr. Willis, Mr. Noel Trotter Baron von Gentroitz in cabin. For San Francisco: Messrs. A. Weguiss, G. O. Tobey, H. M. Kelly and Capt. L. Montgomery in cabin; and 400 Chinese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Takasago-Maru*, from Hongkong via Kobe:—Messrs. Faber, Kayser, and 2 Japanese in cabin; 149 Japanese in steerage.

Per Am. ship *Annie W. Weston*, from Newcastle, N.S.W.:—Mr. and Mrs. Scott and one child,

The Japanese steamer *Sumida-Maru* reports:—Left Kobe at 10 p.m. 18th inst. Experienced strong N.E. winds with thick rainy weather throughout. Arrived 20th inst.

The Japanese steamer *Tokio-Maru* reports:—Left Kobe at midnight 20th inst. Experienced first part fresh N.W. winds with fine weather to Ooshima when we passed U. S. S. *Swatara* bound up; thence to port light N.E. and fine. Arrived at 10.30 a.m. 22nd inst.

The American steamer *City of Peking* reports:—Left Hongkong Oct. 16th with 23 packages of mails and 504 tons cargo for Yokohama for San Francisco 1,420 tons cargo. Had strong N.E. winds with heavy sea.

The Japanese steamer *Niigata-Maru* reports:—Left Kobe 6 p.m. 22nd. Experienced N.W. winds with clear weather through Kii Channel hence to port fresh N.E. with windy weather. Arrived at 8 a.m. 24th, passage 38 hours.

The Japanese steamer *Kokonoye-Maru* reports:—Left Hakodate at 6 p.m. 22nd inst. Experienced strong N.W. winds and squalls to Cape Kuro; thence to light variable winds accompanied with rain and thick fog. Arrived at 7 a.m. 25th. Passage 61 hours.

The Japanese steamer *Hiogo-Maru* reports:—Left Kobe at 3.30 p.m. 23rd inst. Experienced E.N.E. winds with cloudy weather to Rock Island; thence to port fresh N.E. wind with heavy swell and rain. Arrived 10.45 a.m. 25th inst.

The British barque *Charwood* reports:—Left London June 1st. Had the usual weather to the Equator which was crossed in 29° W. Longitude. July 2nd thirty days out had strong S.E. trades well to the Southward followed by N.E. to S.E. gales with thick rainy weather. Passed Meridian Cape of Good Hope in 38° E. Long. August 4th 65 days out; here we encountered strong gales from S.W. with high sea during which shipped large quantities of water smashed skylights, filling cabin and sail room with water doing considerable damage to furniture, etc. Took the S.E. trades in 25° of S. Lat. Sept. 1st which continued till our arrival at Anjer which we passed Sept. 7th 99 days out to Pulo Sapata, fair breeze with favourable weather 13 days from Java Head; here the S.W. monsoon sailed us and in remaining part of China sea adverse gales and calm weather were experienced, had E. to N. winds through Pashee Channel which continued till arrival. Passed Rock Island on Sunday, 23rd inst., where we took pilot; thence to port a succession of strong N.N.E. gales with thick rainy weather. Arrived on Wednesday 23rd inst. Passage 147 days.

The British steamer *Castello* reports:—Left Kobe at 10 p.m. 24th inst. Experienced light East wind with heavy swell from South to Ooshima; thence to port strong N.E. winds and cloudy weather. Arrived 1.30 p.m. 26th inst. Passage 39 hours. Passed S. S. *Breconshire* off Ooshima steering South.

The Jap. str. *Nagoya-Maru* reports:—Left Kobe 6 p.m. 25th inst. Experienced E. N. E. winds and fine weather from Rock Island fresh breeze. Arrived at 6 a.m. 27th. passage 36 hours.

The Japanese steamer *Wakanoura-Maru* reports:—Left Kobe at 6 a.m. 27th inst. Experienced light variable winds with swell from S.E. and fine pleasant weather throughout. Arrived at 2 p.m. 28th inst. Passage 31 hours.

The British steamer *Oceanic* reports:—Left San Francisco Oct. 8th at 8 p.m. Moderate variable winds and fine until the 18th; thence to 26th strong head winds and high seas; to port strong to moderate variable winds and sea.

The British barque *Royal Tar* reports:—Left Newcastle, N.S.W., Sept. 5th. Experienced strong South, S.E. and S.W. winds to N.W. end of New Caledonia; from 10° S. Lat. to 10° N. Lat. light variable winds and calms with fine weather; afterwards moderate N.E. winds. Made Vries Island Monday, Oct. 24th; from thence to port light N.E. winds and calms with strong adverse current. Arrived at 8 p.m. last evening, Oct. 31st. Passage 55 days.

The Japanese steamer *Suminoye-Maru* reports:—Left Hakodate, 28th inst. 7.30 p.m. Experienced Strong South wind with heavy sea to Kinkasan hence to port North wind fresh with clear weather. Arrived at 3.30 p.m., 31st. Passage 68 hours.

The British steamer *Sunda* reports:—Left Hongkong, Oct. 20th 1 p.m. Experienced a very heavy N. E. monsoon gale with tremendous sea and cloudy

weather. Arrived at Nagasaki, Oct. 27th, 8.20 p.m. Left Nagasaki 28th at 11.15 a.m., via Inland sea fine weather and strong N. W. wind to Yokohama Oct. 31st, 8.32 a.m. Passage 4 days.

The Japanese steamer *Akitushima-Maru* reports:—Left Kobe at 1 a.m. on the 30th. October. Experienced strong N.W. wind with clear weather to Rock Island, hence to port light variable winds and smooth sea. Arrived in Yokohama at 1.30 p.m. on the 31st. Passage, 36 hours.

The Japanese steamer *Toyoshima-Maru* reports:—Left Nagasaki 5 p.m. 29th Oct. Experienced moderate N. W. wind with fine weather throughout. Arrived at 4 p.m. 1st. Passage 71 hours.

The German barque *Tallas* reports:—Left Hakodate at 8 a.m. 26th Oct. Experienced N. winds and calm weather first part; afterwards strong S.W. winds till 31st Oct.; thence to port strong N.E. winds with clear weather. Arrived at noon 2nd Nov. Passage eight days.

The American schooner *Otter* reports:—Left San Francisco March 29th. Experienced mostly moderate S. W. winds with fine weather to the outer grounds which we reached April 14th 16 days from San Francisco. The weather during the summer has been such as to interrupt hunting operations considerably, fresh gales from the Eastward with confused sea having been experienced most of the summer. Left Fox Island 18th October: first part strong N. W. winds afterwards light S. W. wind. In Yokohama Bay fresh N. E. wind. Arrived on 2nd inst. Saw the schooner *Helena* and *Diana*. The former had 40 otter and 400 seal skins the latter 90 otter and 500 seal skins.

The Japanese steamer *Genkai-Maru* reports:—Left Kobe 8 p.m. 1st inst. Experienced N. W. winds to Cape Sima where we passed the Flying squadron steering South hence to port. N. and Easterly winds with fine weather throughout. Arrived at 7 a.m. 3rd inst. Passage 35 hours.

The British steamer *Bengloe* reports:—Left Hongkong 9 p.m. 27th. Experienced strong N. E. monsoon up to Van Diemen's straits; hence to port strong N.N.E. winds with clear weather. Arrived at 2 a.m. 4th inst. Passage 7 days and 5 hours. Passed the British Flying squadron off Ooshima under sail steering South.

The French steamer *Tanais* reports:—Left Hongkong at 6 p.m. 25th Oct. Experienced strong monsoon gale with high sea to Van Diemen's Straits; thence to port fresh N. and N.E. winds with clear weather. Arrived at 3 a.m. 4th inst. Passage 9 days and 9 hours.

The British steamer *Gaelic* reports:—Left Hongkong Oct. 29th at 5 p.m. had fresh N. E. monsoon in the China seas, passed the ship *Thermopyla* and S. S. *Strathclyde* off Ooshima, experienced strong N.E. winds on the Japan coast with unusually heavy rain and thick weather, passed Ooshima at 6 a.m. on the 4th Nov. have too for 12 hours owing to the misty weather, passed Rock Island at 5.30 p.m. on the 5th and arrived at Yokohama on the 6th at 1 a.m.

The American barque *Annie W. Weston* reports:—Left Newcastle, N.S.W., Sept. 16th. Had clear pleasant weather with N.W. winds up to the 19th sudden change of wind to S.E. for two days, afterwards N.W. winds up to 24th Lat. 28.4° S. Experienced a strong gale of wind from N.W. with heavy sea, ship labouring heavily, 26th took S.E. trades in 27° S. had clear pleasant weather up to 6th October when the wind hauled to E.N.E. and was light and variable up to 19th Lat. 8.25° N. with a good deal of rain and sharp squalls took the N.E. trades in 12.46 N. and carried strong winds up to the 24th, afterwards light E. winds with rain up to 30th Oct. Lat. 28.13 N. encountered the full force of a typhoon from S.E. wind veering to N.W. and tremendous sea, blew main top sail clean out of the bolt rope, lost fore upper top sail, gaff top sail, and other light sails the force of the winds having blown off the gaskets after the sails had been reefed. This weather continued for twelve hours ship labouring and straining fearfully; made Fatiro 3rd Nov. bearing N. 15 miles past west of it and east of Macuro Islands daylight 4th made Mela Head bearing N. E. 18 miles wind E.N.E. beating to windward for a day and a half; night of 5th thick rainy weather with sharp gusts of wind from N.E. with indications of a typhoon; stood off the land to the South head to high sea and heavy swell from the South 6th, weather moderated and sea going down set sail; 8 p.m. made Cape Segami light bearing N. by W. distance 8 miles 5 a.m. 7th pilot came on board hence to port variable winds and fine weather. Arrived 6 p.m. 7th, Passage 53 days.

YOKOHAMA, NOVEMBER 8TH, 1881.

## IMPORTS.

100 Dollars Mexican = 311 Silver Boos.

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## STAPLE EXPORTS.

**SILK.**—Our last report was dated the 20th ultimo; as yet there is no real change to note in the aspect of the dispute between foreigners and the Japanese silk guild. It is well known, however, that many of the country producers and dealers are anxious to release themselves from the bonds of the guild and at once realise silver for their produce, instead of allowing it to be exported direct and have to wait an indefinite time for the returns.

With foreigners nothing whatever has been done by the guild. Sundry lots have been received from the country direct, on terms which have not transpired.

Since our last 941 bales have been shipped of which 881 bales were on Japanese account. No reliable quotations can be given. Stock of all kinds is now estimated at 9,000 bales of 80 catties.

TOTAL EXPORT FROM 1ST JULY TO DATE.										1880-81.	1881-82
London	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,485 Bales.	1,513 Bales.
France and Italy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,975 "	2,321 "
United States	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,189 "	1,828 "
										5,649 Bales.	5,162 Bales.

**TEA.**—Notwithstanding the holidays attendant on the regatta and autumn race meeting a fair amount of business has been done, settlements since date of last circular amounting to 9,000 piculs and prices at one time were decidedly weaker.

Arrivals for the past few days have been on a limited scale and stocks to hand consist either of Common or Fine Grades; Medium and Good Medium being only in small supply.

The S. S. *Castello* had despatch for New York via China ports yesterday leaving the S. S. *Bengles* circulated to follow at £3 per 40 cubic feet.

DESCRIPTION.	PRICES PER PICUL.	REMARKS.
SILK:—		
Mayebashi; 1½ @ 2 Hanks ... ..	\$ 630 to 640 per picul.	} Nominal. No business doing upon which to base quotations.
"      2      "      ... ..	610 to 625      "	
"      2½     "      ... ..	590 to 600      "	
"      3 and lower ... ..	530 to 570      "	
Kakedas; Good ... ..	650 to 670      "	
Filatures; Best ... ..	740 to 760      "	
"      Good ... ..	710 to 730      "	
Hamatski; Medium ... ..	550 to —      "	
Sendai and Oshiu ... ..	— to —      "	
TEA:—		
Common... ..	\$ 6.00 and under.	
Good Common ... ..	\$10.00 to \$12.00	
Medium ... ..	\$13.00 to \$17.00	
Good Medium ... ..	\$19.00 to \$21.00	
Fine ... ..	\$23.00 to \$28.00	
Finest ... ..	\$30.00 to \$34.00	
Choice ... ..	\$36.00 and upwards.	

## EXCHANGE.

Transactions in Exchange have been on a very small scale, both imports and exports having fallen off considerably on account of the Japanese guild still holding out. Rates, except local ones, have hardly undergone any change.

ON LONDON.—Bank	.....4 months' sight.....	3s. 9½d.
" do.	.....Sight.....	3s. 8½d.
" Credits	.....6 months' sight.....	3s. 9½d.
" do.	.....4 do. ....	3s. 9½d.
" PARIS.—Bank	.....Sight.....	4.70
" Credits	.....6 months' sight.....	4.84
" SHANGHAI.—Bank	.....Sight.....	73½
" Private	.....10 days' sight.....	74

ON HONGKONG.—Bank	.....Sight.....	Par.
" Private	.....10 days' sight.....	¼ % disc.
" SAN FRANCISCO.—Bank	.....Sight.....	90
" Private	.....30 days' sight.....	91
" NEW YORK.—Bank	.....Sight.....	90
" Private	.....30 days' sight.....	91

Paper currency, 168 per \$100.



# THE JAPAN GAZETTE,

A FORTNIGHTLY SUMMARY OF THE

POLITICAL, COMMERCIAL, LITERARY, AND SOCIAL EVENTS OF JAPAN.

VOL. XXVIII. No. 10.

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## BIRTHS.

On the 11th. instant, at Ikuta-maye, Kobe, the wife of JAS. ELLERTON, Jr., of a son.

On Wednesday, the 23rd November, at No. 79, Yokohama, the wife of M. M. KUHN, of a Daughter.

## DIED.

At Shanghai on 29th ultimo, suddenly, BURNBRAWLE LEWIS. Aged 43 years.

At Chefoo, on 3rd. Nov., T. CUBBINS, late Master of the schooner *Mary*.

## Summary.

OUR last issue was dated Nov. 8th. for transmission by the O. & O. S.S. *Gaelic*. The following mails have been received.

M. M. S. *Volga*, Marseilles .....

P. M. S. *City of Tokio*, San Francisco. Oct. 24. ....

O. & O. S. *Oceanic*, London .....

And the following have been despatched:—

P. & O. S. *Gaelic*, San Francisco .....

M. M. S. *Messiah*, Marseilles .....

P. & O. S. *Melanes*, London .....

THE silk war has come to a most "lame and impotent conclusion." The establishment of a central silk warehouse has been agreed to; the foreign association have virtually yielded almost everything, and the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho has secured all the advantages it was formed to obtain. Nominally, the trade reverts, to some extent, to its original status, but in reality it stands on a very different footing. Silk buyers will find this out before they are many weeks older; in the meantime let them enjoy their dearly bought treaty of peace as best they may. The Japanese have probably learnt a lesson which hereafter they may perhaps be able to turn to account; which is, that foreign determination, firmness of purpose, obstinacy, or whatever else it may be called, is not impregnable to all assaults. Continual dripping wears away a stone. The simile is an old one but it holds good in this case. Japanese have only to stand out long enough and foreign opposition will melt away as surely as snow does in the presence of sunshine. A brief review of the difficulty, which will assist those at a distance to understand and appreciate the nature of the late contest, will be found in another column.

BY way of commemorating the termination of hostilities the native import merchants gave an entertainment at the Machigaisho on the evening of the 22nd. inst. About thirty foreigners were present though the invitations issued far exceeded that number. The entertainment consisted of theatrical performances followed by a banquet at which congratulatory speeches were exchanged on both sides. The directors of the Rengo, and import merchants, it is needless to say, mustered in full force. The governor of Kanagawa-ken, two or three other officials and several Japanese ladies also put in an appearance. The imperial marine band was in attendance and played a selection of popular music at intervals during the evening.

THE resignation of Mr. Okuma, late finance minister has proved to have been the forerunner of many important changes in the government, not the least of which is the enforced retirement of Mr. Mayeshima, postmaster general, who was one of the ablest and most popular of all the officials. Many rumours are afloat concerning his so-called "resignation" but the actual truth will, in all probability, never be known though it may be shrewdly guessed. Indeed the entire service of the empire seems to be in a state

of transition and whether the outcome will be for good or evil is scarcely safe to predict.

THE festivities which commenced at Tokio during the visit of Princes Albert Victor and George of Wales have been continued since their departure. Her Imperial Majesty the Empress has given a garden party which was numerously attended by the princes, *daijins*, *sangi*, members of the *corps diplomatique* and many foreign residents. The Toyama races began on the 20th. but in consequence of inclement weather the second day's events has been postponed until the 27th. inst. on which date H. I. M. the Mikado will probably honour the grand stand with his presence.

THE frequent occurrence of earthquakes necessitates houses being constructed principally of wood. As a natural consequence fires are a very common occurrence in Yokohama during the winter months. Two or three outbreaks have already taken place. This has led to a discussion of the respective merits of different kinds of fire engines. Elsewhere will be found two articles on the subject containing many valuable suggestions offered by an old and much esteemed resident who has had long and varied experience as a fireman in this country. Mr. Hegt—for it is he of whom we write—gave an exhibition of the powers of his engines on the 18th. inst. but whether he has convinced the Yokohama Fire Brigade of their superiority over others worked by steam is an open question.

WE have to record the death of Mr. George French, Chief Justice of H.B.M. Supreme Court for China and Japan which took place at Kobe on the morning of the 13th inst. Mr. French left Shanghai in May last with the intention of recruiting his health prior to taking a trip home. The change seemed at first to have been beneficial, but his powers slowly failed and for some months very slender hopes were entertained of his recovery. Mr. French was much esteemed in Shanghai both in his public and private capacity. The vacancy thus created will probably lead to the appointment of Mr. Hannen to the court for Japan.

EXPERIENCE and observation have proved that atmospherical changes in Yokohama and its vicinity are seldom forewarned by instruments which are of so much value in other parts of the world. The reading of the barometer on the morning of the 20th. was about one inch lower than on the morning before. Telegraphic advices tend to show that the barometrical depression has evidently travelled in a north westerly direction, and from the magnitude of the area of the storm of which we only experienced the outer skirt or verge, its fury has been expended to the south of us, and we may expect to hear of it from every incoming ship for the next few days.

## Leading Articles.

### FREE TRADE FACTS.

MANY of our Japanese readers who have followed the arguments used by this journal in support of its advocacy of the adoption by Japan of a free commercial policy, must regard with feelings of surprise and distrust the seeming revulsion of opinion in the very seat and stronghold of free trade, Great Britain. There, during the few months which followed the difficulties attendant upon the renewal of the French treaty of commerce, the cry arose that free trade, admittedly sound in principle, could only be beneficial in those cases where similar reciprocal advantages were offered by other nations. Members of parliament, leading organs of public opinion, magazine and review writers, and other authoritative exponents of the views of a small section of the English people, have recently attempted to bring about a change in their country's commercial policy by proposing to substitute for the untrammelled commerce of the present time what they are pleased to call Fair Trade, Reciprocity, Countervailing Duties, and other equally specious titles for the hag Protection. Some portion of the American press regards what it terms English trade reaction as a vindication of the wisdom of American protected industry; and throughout the world an opinion seems to be gaining ground that the relative merits of free trade and protection are to be again discussed by the statesmen and economists of that great nation which stands before the world a brilliant example of the results of governmental non-interference with commerce.

Those Japanese to whom political economy is an interesting and profitable study, may be deceived by the commotion raised by some comparatively few sceptics in the policy initiated by COBDEN; and ascribe to the movement a magnitude and significance which it does not, and never will possess. To those who may not have access to the various speeches and pamphlets uttered and written in defence of England's policy, and in correction of the erroneous bases upon which its assailants rely, we propose to offer a summary of the conclusive arguments drawn from actual results which have been used to defend and strengthen the noble superstructure of free trade upon which the glory, influence, and wealth of England mainly depend. Nor will the necessary length of this article deter those resolved upon a thorough understanding of the subject in all its bearings, from its perusal.

"Thirty-five years have elapsed since England adopted free trade in its entirety; and during all those years she alone among the nations has maintained a system of free ports, the only changes in her fiscal policy being in the direction of greater freedom, while other nations, such as the United States, France, and Germany, have raised round themselves the barriers of prohibitory tariffs. With one exception every conceivable economical condition that could constitute a test of the principles and practice of free trade has occurred, the one condition untried being universal free trade. While on the one hand the free trader contemplates with satisfaction the position which his country has attained by her commercial policy, and appeals with confidence to the facts which abound on

every side, and which, to his mind, verify to the fullest extent the theories he has embraced; on the other we find a school of neo-protectionists lamenting what seems to them to be the decadence of their country, and appealing also to facts which appear so to them to bear out their views. But the most astounding thing is, that some of the very facts which are appealed to by one party at evidence of our abounding prosperity are held up by the other as the certain proof of out decay" (1). Nothing, therefore, can be more useful than an examination of the grounds upon which the free trader relies to meet the complaints of his opponents. These complaints have rapidly grown from mere murmurs to outspoken assertions that free trade is rapidly ruining the country, and that nothing but a reversion to protective and even prohibitive duties can save England from the destruction of her commerce (2). As customary in such arguments, resort is again and again had to the exploded theory of the balance of trade, one writer affirming, with all the sincerity of conviction, that the idea that the magnitude of English import as compared with her export trade is a proof of prosperity is "one of the most blundering and most mischievous of the delusions which have helped to blind a portion of the people to the true state of their affairs. To buy more than is sold, and to make that not an accident of trade but its permanent condition—this according to the economist is a most excellent thing for the country. Practical men, who look at such matters from a strictly business point of view, come to a different conclusion" (3). The invested wealth of England gained during her three decades of free trade, her immensely preponderating shipping interest, and the operations of her merchants in foreign countries, conditions which do not exist to the same extent in any other nation, place her in a different and perhaps unique position with regard to the "balance of trade"; and the principles which may be applied in her case are unsuitable to any other. Nevertheless the subject is not devoid of interest when dealt with on the trustworthy ground of official and corrected statistics. Trade returns from 1854 to 1880 show an excess of importation in round figures of 1,750,000,000*l.* which should, according to the balance of trade theorists, have drained the nation of all its precious metals. Turning then to the bullion returns we find in the same period an excess of importation of gold and silver of 131,000,000*l.*, from which it is clear that there has been an influx and not an efflux of specie *per se*. In addition to these enormous incomes, foreign loans to an immense aggregate have been floated in London, of which England has acquired, at the lowest estimate, 600,000,000*l.*; in return not for actual money advances but for material included in the aggregate export of commodities during that period of 5,900,000,000*l.* During the twenty-seven years of England's free trade of which statistics are procurable, her people have enjoyed the products of the world, added to their stock of precious metals, and lent to other people (the two last items representing the saving) to the extent of 2,480,000,000*l.* sterling. "And then Lord Sandon, and the rest of them, tell us we shall be ruined, unless we tax the goods sent in from abroad, one-third of which, at least, are sent us

as interest on investments and industrial works" (4).

The figures given above are so large that we may well pause in their consideration, and ask why, in the face of indisputable evidence such as this, there should be found persons competent to declare that the allegation of the balance of English trade being a proof of prosperity, is a "blundering and mischievous delusion?" Still more extraordinary is it to find men of education and eminence advocating a restriction of importation, in order that the error of buying more than is sold should be corrected while there is yet time. If such proposals should find favour, and receive the support of the conservative government, whose advent to office is regarded as the only hope of salvation left to Englishmen, what would and must be the consequence? "Foreign countries must continue to pay their debts. Not being able to pay in goods [consequent upon restrictions on importation], they will have for the time to pay in bullion and specie; there would be an accumulation of the precious metals in this country, and that would speedily bring about a rise in the price of all other articles. When that rise had been established, our power to export would be diminished; the amount of our exports would be reduced until the balance, or excess of imports over exports, was again reestablished, although the volume of each would be lessened to the enormous disadvantage of all concerned." (5)

Here we must dismiss this subject. If there are any who, in the face of the figures and the just inferences drawn from them, are still of opinion that English balance of trade is adverse; and that legislative interference and a resort to protective principles are essentials to future safety, they must be left in undisturbed possession of the untenable position they have assumed. To discuss the matter further would be as idle as, in this advanced age, to write volumes of argument to show that the earth is a globe or that the sun is the centre of our system. The facts quoted will be sufficient to induce those interested in closer examination to look into the matter for themselves.

Of material progress due to the action of free trade there is abundant evidence. Thus, the population in 1870 was 31,205,444; in 1881, 34,788,814; or an increase of nearly 900 *per diem*, notwithstanding the threatened depopulation by emigration caused by protracted agricultural and trade depression. This large population has to support itself in some way or other; and in doing so provides itself with an ever increasing proportion of the world's products. Thus, in 1854 the net import per head of the people, stated in dollars was 27.54; in 1880, 59.64. Exports have also steadily grown from 20.89 in 1854, to 41.52 in 1880. These figures represent value only; and do not convey an accurate impression of the increase in bulk, quantity being counteracted by the fall in prices, due, in great measure if not entirely, to the demonetization of silver in some and the retention of mono-metallism in other countries. We must therefore turn to those articles mostly consumed by the labouring class or mass of the population to form some correct notion of the increase in the people's food supply, contrasting 1880 with 1870. Of bacon, butter and cheese, the consumption

(1) *The Reciprocity Cause*: by G. W. Medley.

(2) *Economist*, July 23rd., 1881.

(3) "English Trade and Foreign Competition." *Quarterly Review*, July 1881.

(4) *The Spectator*. "Trade truths"; July 28, 1881.

(5) Rt. Hon. Joseph Chamberlain. Speech in the House of Commons on the French treaty; August 12th, 1881.

per head is now lbs. 29.04 against 9.80; of potatoes 31.63 against 2.80; of wheat 210.42 against 122.90; of rice 14.14 against 6.74; of sugar raw and refined 63.68 against 47.23; of tea 4.59 against 3.81.

These figures mean not merely greater comforts but longer duration of life; a higher physique and consequently better mental culture; the addition to the resources of the state of the extra power thus developed. Probably the most important item of consumption is wheat; and owing to free import from the American corn-fields the consumption per head has increased from 270 lbs. in 1850 to 341 lbs. in 1879 (6). Next in importance as an article of food is meat, and looking at the rapid increase of importation, also from the United States, of meat of various kinds, it is not unreasonable to conclude that consumption has also increased. Americans and English are, perhaps, the best fed people of the present age; and without any intention of disparaging other nationalities, we maintain they are able to accomplish the greatest amount of work. That low prices consequent upon free import has conduced to the improved food supply of the people is shown by the fact that the price of wheat fell from 55s per quarter in 1871 to 48s in 1879; a fact of the highest importance and interest because it has been shown by Dr. FAIR, in his statistical abstracts, that the death rate of the population falls 3 per cent. for each 2s. per bushel in the price of wheat.

From the food of the people we pass without difficulty to a contrast of their social condition. Pauperism has increased in Ireland consequent upon a condition of affairs not superinduced by any commercial policy, from 78,921 in 1870 to 109,655 in 1880. In Scotland and England and Wales, where every man who is able to but does not work is despised, pauperism has markedly decreased. In the former, from 126,187 in 1870 to 98,608 in 1880; in the latter, from 1,079,391 to 803,126 in the same periods. Criminal statistics are equally reassuring, education having followed in the footsteps of commerce. In 1850, population 27,523,694 there were 41,008 convictions; in 1880, population 34,468,552, there were only 15,643 convictions. These figures are more eloquent than words. The steps which have been taken to improve the intellectual condition of the people are already bearing fruit. In 1869 the schools inspected numbered 10,337, with accommodation for 2,076,344 pupils and an average attendance of 1,332,786. In 1880 these figures had grown to 20,670, 4,842,807, and 3,155,534 respectively. The neglect of public education in England, which has long been a standing reproach to a nation claiming to hold rank among the first in letters, bids fair to be substantially remedied; and the present generation may yet see every English man and woman sufficiently educated. If the condition of the labouring classes as described by those who profess to see in the present state of England's trade the threatened ruin of the masses, were not amply disproved by the figures quoted, there is still more material evidence of prosperity; for while in 1851 the savings' banks' deposits were 30,277,654l. they stood at 77,721,084l. in 1880. Comparing these deposits with the population the sums per head in 1851 and 1880 were respectively 22s. and 45s. The steady growth of the revenue has been frequently ascribed to increased burdens of taxation. How does this assertion compare with facts? In 1870 the

amount raised was 75,434,252l.; in 1881 this sum had grown to 84,041,288l. Population and wealth have, however, both increased, and the rate of taxation per head remains unchanged, 2l. 8s. 4d. per head in each year. When the increasing interests and responsibilities of Great Britain are considered, the circumstance that taxation has not increased is a practical comment on the economical administration of her government; and England is the only nation which can truthfully declare that taxation in its incidence upon individuals has decreased in the past half century (7). Had the commercial affairs of that country operated adversely, a diminution in the value of property rated for income tax would have followed, but the returns show that in 1869 this was 434,804,000l.; in 1879 it stood at 578,046,000l. Nor has any economy in taxation been covered by additions to the public debt which standing in 1870 at 798,000,000l., has been reduced to 769,000,000l. in 1880. Bankers', and bankers' clearing house returns give figures equally satisfactory, but the amounts dealt with are so large and so dependent upon certain conditions unconnected with the matter in hand, that we omit them. Not so the railway returns which show a striking increase in internal traffic. In 1870 there were 15,537 miles open; 330,000,000 passengers were carried; and the total receipts were 45,078,143l., or 2,794l. per mile. Ten years later, in 1880, these figures had become respectively, 17,945; 604,000,000; and 61,958,754l., or 3,453l. per mile.

All these figures convey to the trained mind a meaning volumes of descriptive or explanatory notes would fail to do; and even the most obstinate pessimist must admit their importance and reassuring character. Whence, therefore, arises the cry of ruin and destruction to be only averted by the revival of that policy which tied England down to starvation, poverty, ignorance, and crime? The secret lies in the condition of agriculture. This is the one black spot in the otherwise brilliant record; and dark as the figures are, bad as the impression they convey, they rather lessen than exaggerate the troubles and losses which have fallen on the British farmer in the last three or four years. In 1870 there were 11,755,000 acres under corn; the average price of wheat was 46s. 10d.; of cattle there were 9,235,052; of sheep 32,786,783. In 1880 these figures were respectively 10,672,086; 44s. 4d.; 9,871,158; and 30,239,620. In the three bad years, 1877-79, the losses arising from diminished agricultural production, as compared with the normal average, were equivalent to a loss of 150,000,000l. sterling. This is the estimate of an eminent statistician, Mr. CAIRD, though some other economists have put it at double that sum. "Clearly it is impossible that 300,000,000l., or even 150,000,000l., can be subtracted from the purchasing power of a country without more or less affecting injuriously every other trade and interest" (8). But this is not a question of protection or free trade. It is the result of inclement seasons which we can neither improve nor control by legislative enactments. It is true, that one class, a large and important one, has suffered severely. The British farmer bids fair to cease to be; and when we reflect that we can only assist him, temporarily too, by taxing the import of grain and thereby increasing the price of food for the mass, we may well hesitate

before deviating from the principle of free trade which aims at securing the greatest good of the greatest number.

To students of these interesting questions we venture to commend this compilation of facts and evidences, in the hope that the fretful cry of protectionists will be tempered by the knowledge that free trade has secured for England and her people that independence and liberty of action so dear as to be now indispensable; and to the certainty that all attempts to revert to fiscal interference with labour and enterprise will meet with the invincible opposition of those who look back to the reign of protection as to the age of darkness and barbarism.—Nov. 12.

### THE SILK DIFFICULTY.

THE Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho having secured all the advantages it was formed to obtain, has abandoned the position assumed on September 15th. last, and the silk trade has reverted, to some extent at all events, to the *status quo ante* for the time being. A brief review of the difficulty may therefore assist those at a distance to appreciate the nature of a contest which has been needlessly embittered.

In the commencement of foreign intercourse with Japan silk was a coveted article of trade. The most valuable product of the country became its staple export; and Japanese, unused to the requirements of foreign markets, yet desirous of disposing of their produce, readily agreed to the conditions suggested by foreign buyers; and for twenty years the custom has been to send into foreign warehouses a sufficiency of silk from which the purchaser might select the quantity and quality required. With rare exceptions business went on smoothly. Complaints were, of course, made of the action of certain firms; but on investigation into the circumstances it was generally discovered that the native sellers were consenting parties to the irregularities of which they complained, and that redress lay within their own power to apply. Foreigners, on the other hand, had a standing grievance not so readily disposed of. They were here solely for commercial purposes, and on the representations guaranteed to them by treaty that no obstacle whatever should be opposed to their free commercial intercourse with all ranks of the people who chose to enter the foreign settlements for the purposes of trade. The conditions surrounding that commerce have been such as to nullify the treaty stipulation; a few persons who held earliest intercourse with the treaty ports gradually acquiring a virtual monopoly of trade rights intended to be equally distributed among the body of the people. This monopoly was strengthened by representations industriously spread in the interior that transactions with foreigners were complex, and only to be successfully conducted by skilled persons, experts in fact. By degrees the monopoly assumed more formidable dimensions. An association was formed which rented from the local government the power to levy local transit dues on all productions entering or leaving the settlement; erecting, in furtherance of this illegal practice, watch houses and barriers at all points of ingress to the settlement beyond which no person, unlicensed by the association, could pass without the payment of transit dues in open violation of the condition in the treaty which provide

(6) *Progress of the World*, Mulhall. London, 1880.

(7) *The Times*, April 1878.

that goods imported shall not be subjected, beyond the stipulated customs tariff, to "any tax, excise, or transit duty whatever." This association's powers are so extensive that upon any violation of their rules by persons claiming independence of action, the aid of the police is successfully invoked. Foreigners are anxious to extend trade: this association is equally interested in its limitation, for the obvious reason that any material enlargement would cause the control to pass from the hands of its members. Foreigners desire freedom of action for individual Japanese as for themselves: the association denies that right, and declares that no producer shall sell to, or consumer buy from a foreigner except through the intervention of one of the members of the association. Ample evidence of this is afforded in the suit of *Ludwig versus the Kosekigumi*, reported in this journal of October 26th. and 27th.

The profitable and unchallenged control of the import trade led to a project for the more effective control of the export trade; and many members of the Machigaisho united with a few other persons, twenty-six in all, to form the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho, through which alone all silk sales should be conducted. The conditions of this new association were imperative and unreasonable. The entire order of business was subverted. The respective rights of buyer and seller were ignored; and the buyer was reduced to the position of a suppliant for silk which he must accept upon the arbitrary terms of the Rengo. The producer, on the other hand, was to be made a secondary consideration, though no efforts were spared to induce him to believe that the new system was inaugurated for his special benefit. The Rengo was to advance upon silk sent in for sale; but it was eventually discovered that it charged interest at 18 and then 15 per cent., while only paying 6 per cent. for loans from the national banks and other sources. Again, the producer had been in the habit of using the specie proceeds of silk for his own purposes of trade; that is, the money was put into circulation, much of it going back in payment of useful imports. The Rengo would have changed all this; and many Japanese do not hesitate to declare that the chief reason of its formation was the acquisition of the specie proceeds of silk, which withdrawn from internal circulation by the necessities of government, would preclude the exchange of paper currency for silver at any price on the open market and thus extinguish the little import trade there is. Happily, however, the monopolists wanted too much; and over reached themselves in the breadth of their design. Relying upon the want of coöperation among foreigners, and upon the success of past dictation in trivial matters, the association refused to consult the buyer, firm in belief that the latter would have no alternative but to submit. So satisfied were the members of eventual submission that one most important factor was overlooked. Silk is a costly article: a pound weight is worth a pound sterling: the lax customs of Japanese packers and dealers render inspection of every bale, every bundle, a necessity before purchase: the premises where this arduous labour was to be performed in future were unsuitable in all respects: and within two days after the promulgation of the new regulations it became evident to all that purchases under such conditions would entail serious risks upon those making them. Apart from the practical difficulties, there were other long stand-

ing grievances which found free expression at an excited meeting of silk buyers held on September 20th, the burden of which was distrust of the native merchant, the unvarying superiority of sample to bulk, and other objections of a more or less important and relevant character. The proceedings of this meeting were reported and created much sensation in Japanese commercial circles. Some of the charges urged may have been too sweeping and damatory, may even have been unjustifiable, but the free-expression of opinion will not be without ulterior advantages. The spirit of opposition grew: a foreign association was formed for the protection of the interests of buyers: the native press heaped anathemas upon all foreigners: appeals were made to the merchants of the interior by both parties: the merchants of the interior refused to believe either on the broad general principle that truth in matters of trade is unknown in this country: the Rengo started a new party cry: they were to recover for Japan those commercial rights of which her people had been deprived of the cunning foreigner, a cry which found an echo in thousands of minds which were wholly powerless to grasp its meaning, or give definition to the rights of which they loudly asserted themselves to be deprived: bad blood arose on both sides: the Japanese made the utmost use of the opportunity to display their unworthy fear and hatred of the foreigner: the foreigner learned for the first time beyond doubt that beneath the cloak of Japanese politeness is a stratum of invincible dislike to all his race: meeting followed meeting: resolutions were passed, affirmed, reaffirmed, binding all in honour to have no dealings whatsoever, directly or indirectly with the Rengo: business was wholly suspended: stocks accumulated until the warehouse of the Rengo contained silk in value equal to sixty per cent. of the entire average annual export, and, finally, the situation is best explained by the term "deadlock." Various efforts were made to mediate; and the monopolists made a hard struggle to secure foreign adhesion to a proposition for a central market which was as strenuously resisted as the Rengo itself was. Foreigners adhered to the principle that every trader should have unquestioned freedom of action; that consent to the establishment of a central market without a material guarantee that the controlling monopoly should be abolished, would be a surrender of the principle they had so long contended for; whereas a central market founded on an independent basis for the *bond fide* improvement of trade, would, if properly conducted to its proper end, attract, by its own inherent good qualities, all the business of the place, rendering consent to its establishment on the part of foreigners a mere hollow and supererogatory ceremony calculated only to mislead the unwary into a costly undertaking which may eventually prove altogether unnecessary when greater natural individual freedom of trade is established. In the mean time signs of dissolution appeared in the Rengo itself. Many of its best supporters withdrew from its ranks; and within a day or two of the completion of its second month's existence it virtually ceased to be; but not before an unhappy disagreement had occurred in the foreign association so serious that had it taken place one week earlier it would have assured the unconditional triumph of the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho and the total defeat and humble submission of foreigners. To this last episode, and the angry correspondence which

announced it to the general public, we gladly avoid further reference. Matters were in this condition when, to the astonishment of the public, foreigners submitted suddenly to the demands of the Rengo: those who had been most strenuous in resistance were among the first to give way; and the principles which have held foreigners together for sixty days have been sacrificed.

This necessary *excursus* is intended to introduce a dispassionate criticism of the question. In the first place, it is essentially necessary to the welfare of native and foreigner alike that the freedom of action guaranteed by treaty shall be secured by vigilant watchfulness on the part of the representatives of the treaty powers as well as by the Japanese government. The latter may not be responsible for the persistent evasion of the treaty rights; but when evidence given by Japanese in a Japanese court of law, declares the foreign settlement in a state of blockade which effectually prevents commercial intercourse with foreigners except through the intervention of one or more of the monopolists, the position cannot longer be ignored. It is a palpable violation of the spirit, even of the letter of the treaty, the London protocol of June 1862, and the IX section of the tariff convention of 1866: and if the Japanese government refuse to, or do not take steps to render the action of those who are responsible for this condition of affairs punishable by law, they admit that a handful of their subjects may with impunity defy the solemn obligations of an international compact. Too much stress cannot be laid upon this point. The continuance of friendly relations maintained solely with a view to mutual commercial advantages must depend upon the action of the Japanese government in this matter: and we submit that the denial of government encouragement and aid to the monopolists, couched in terms we hesitate to characterise, is insufficient in face of the mass of opposing circumstantial evidence, verified beyond all reasonable doubt by the positive statements of witnesses in a Japanese court. Before this one vital question all others connected with the mere method of conducting trade fade into insignificance, and must be subordinated to the greater issue. The suggested extension of the limits of trade intercourse beyond the settlements to the silk districts in the neighbourhood of Tokio, however beneficial to the nation, seems premature when it is known that commercial intercourse with the settlements themselves has been for years, and still is, limited by the caprice or personal interests of the few, who hold unchallenged control over the entire import and export trades. The foreign silk association should press this question upon the consideration of the *corps diplomatique*, in order that it may be formally brought to the notice of the government as an element calculated to exercise a vast influence upon the revision of treaties which have been and are now systematically evaded, if not with the approval, certainly with the tacit consent of the Japanese government.

Reverting to the silk difficulty, and writing *ex post facto*, the reflection arises that had buyers come to an understanding among themselves and to a resolution merely to abstain from purchases until such time as the conditions were properly modified, the combination would have given way within a few weeks after its formation. There would have been less excitement, less ill-feeling; but there would have been fewer additions to the common stock of knowledge of the conditions



under which our commercial relations exist. Perhaps in the end, we shall find the wiser course has been followed; and if the outcome should be the formation of a permanent committee to watch the common interest; to carry out a resolution to discountenance monopolies of all kinds and to refuse any dealings directly or indirectly with the members thereof; to insist upon unrestricted freedom of individual action of Japanese merchants and producers; and to ensure unity of action for the common good, Japanese and foreigners alike may yet quote the formation and downfall of the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho as the era of their deliverance from the thrall of a hateful and unsupportable commercial obligarchy.

Japanese have now an excellent opportunity for testing the fair dealing of their foreign compeers. There is no difficulty in the path of perfected arrangements by which buyer and seller may be satisfied. Foreigners ask for nothing unreasonable when they insist upon such full examination of silk before actual purchase as bitter experience shows to be absolutely indispensable. With reform in Japanese selection and packing of silk; of the present dishonest method of presenting a sample of good quality to represent the bulk of bad; of the countless tricks which have given rise to the common belief that Japanese have no appreciation of the scope of business proper, and of the code of honour which governs its conduct, will come an extension of commerce of incalculable benefit to all, including the humblest tiller of the soil, or the unhappy being whose labour, instead of being utilised for the good of his country, is degraded to the level of that of beasts of burden.—Nov. 19.

### THE SILK COMPROMISE.

FOREIGN merchants having opened their campaign against the promoters of the Rengo with a great flourish of trumpets and loud asseverations of their resolve never to give way; having in various meetings levelled sweeping charges of dishonesty and want of faith against Japanese merchants, declared their resolute intention never to recognize the Rengo, and having finally worsted their opponents in the exhausting struggle, gave way suddenly under circumstances as incalculably previsible to Japanese as to the large majority of foreigners who were not in the secret. As much of the responsibility for this state of things is supposed to rest upon Mr. WILKIN, it is but just to that gentleman to ascertain, as far as published reports will allow, to what extent his action is open to the charges of inconsistency which form the principal topic of conversation throughout the settlement. The following extracts from Mr. WILKIN's various speeches will be useful in the present state of divided opinion as to the justice or otherwise of the action of the later meetings of the foreign silk association.

#### WHAT MR. WILKIN SAID AND DID.

September 20th.

"The scheme just launched by the Japanese seems to contain within it some of the principles of such improvement, but it presupposes as an essential condition that buyers are able to place implicit confidence in the Japanese, not only in their straightforwardness and honesty, but also in their judgment of silk. This last is not of such

September 20th.

great importance. . . but are we able to depend upon the former? . . . I am not downhearted about the issue of this struggle. . . I have never been so proud of our community as I am at this time. . . and if we maintain this attitude I feel sure that when these difficulties have passed away, we, as a community, will be the better for having stood our ground through them.

"With such an experience can buyers be reasonably asked, all of a sudden, to trust themselves in the hands of silkmen and their banto? . . . There can be but one answer to these questions. And I repeat, therefore, that in the absence of confidence the scheme proposed is worse than impracticable."

October 13th.

"Some of the native import merchants have, I can be easily arranged, may mention, volunteered their services to endeavour to mediate, to suggest, as they say, a compromise. They ask whether, supposing the guild would be willing, regardless of expense, to provide suitable godown accommodation in the foreign settlement, as a temporary measure, foreigners would consent to buy through the guild. It is needless to remark that this means a compromise in which we yield nearly everything, and they only the minor point of one of the inconveniences. . . was established business."

"It is not for sellers, and especially for sellers, whom we cannot trust, to impose their terms upon us. Let us clearly understand our position. Here we have a guild of sellers dictating to us, certain terms upon which we shall buy their produce;—and who are they and what are their terms? They are men who, several of them, have systematically and every day the last 15 or 20 years, attempted to trick us into paying more for their silk than it is worth; and they demand that we shall virtually place ourselves in their hands, that our time and convenience shall be of little or no account, that they themselves shall hold everything in their control, recover, as the cant phrase is, 'their commercial rights.' And we reply, we will not."

"Now, gentlemen, I am not downhearted about the issue of this struggle. . . I have never been so proud of our community as I am at this time. . . and if we maintain this attitude I feel sure that when these difficulties have passed away, we, as a community, will be the better for having stood our ground through them."

November 2nd.

If we are justified in inferring from the passages quoted on the other side, that Mr. Wilkin's objection to a central market was due entirely to its connection with the Rengo, the following lines are of the utmost importance as showing that Mr. Wilkin must have understood that the scheme to which he gave his consent nine days later was identical with that of the Rengo.

"Mr. Wilkin remarked that the present conference will come to nothing unless some means can be devised for carrying on the business at present."

"Mr. Masuda replied that the object of the silk association is to obtain something like a general warehouse for inspection, &c. The question of present business can be easily arranged, but what the association now desire is to settle whether or not a general warehouse can be established. Unless this point is settled it is useless to talk about present business."

"It was finally agreed that Messrs. Walsh and Wilkin should consult with the foreign merchants of Yokohama as to the feasibility of offering a resolution at a public meeting approving the plan of a central market on condition that until such market was established business should go on as before, and especially for sellers, &c., Messrs. Shibusawa, whom we cannot trust, and Masuda agreeing to impose their terms upon us. Let us clearly understand our position, that business should be conducted in such manner, on condition that the foreign merchants approve of the plan of a central market."

On the 10th or 11th instant, Mr. Wilkin, then chairman of the committee of the foreign silk association, and subsequently to the unconditional delivery of some 500 bales of silk to Mr. Abegg, accepted, by signature or promise, 10 bales on the condition that the central market he had throughout the meetings of the foreign association so strongly deprecated should be formed."

November 12th.

"I have put in writing to the import merchants what I have told them verbally, and said again and again any time this two months."

The memorandum here referred to was the terms upon which a central warehouse could be established.

When the quotations given above are studied, the conclusion seems to be, that while Mr. WILKIN was steadily recommending his brother merchants to resist the aggressions of the Rengo, to have no communication with or recognize the members of it, and above all to refuse their consent to a central warehouse, he was individually at "any time this two months," willing to negotiate with the Rengo for the formation of such a central warehouse; and did, eventually, when the combination had finally given way, accept and ratify a proposal to that effect; and this entirely upon his own motion and without that consultation with foreign merchants stipulated for at the meeting with Messrs. MASUDA and SHIBUSAWA.

We confess there were many difficulties in Mr. WILKIN's path. He had an unqualified right to act as he thought fit in his individual capacity. But the public only know that while he was reported to be the staunchest supporter of foreign opposition to demands of an improper character, he had, according to his own confession, acted in an entirely opposite manner; and, against the known wishes of his colleagues, entered into an engagement which wholly undid everything done by the foreign association during a protracted struggle of sixty days duration: for, divested of the many extraordinary provisions with which it is surrounded, the proposition of the import merchants is neither more nor less than the proposition of the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho for its temporary suspension and eventual restoration in all its strength, the same in every respect but in name.

Under the circumstances; and in view of the position Mr. WILKIN's action placed the foreign association in, there was nothing left but a compromise, or a gradual dissolution of the combination and its eventual unconditional submission. One day's delay, one reference to a meeting before the act, would have prevented the error which nearly brought about the ruin of foreign prestige, and has certainly done it irreparable injury.—Nov. 21.

### A CENTRAL SILK WAREHOUSE.

THE propositions which appear to have been accepted for a central warehouse for the sale of silk require very careful examination on all sides, by Japanese as well as foreigners.

The proposition is, in effect, this. If we, two or three persons long enjoying special trade privileges, can put forward a scheme which, we assure you, shall contain nothing objectionable to foreigners, nor any of the elements of a monopoly or interference with individuals, will you, brokers engaged in the import trade, give it your guarantee and present it to foreigners for their acceptance and approval? The import brokers said yes, presented the proposal accordingly, and a qualified acceptance was given to it by a portion of the foreign merchants interested in the trade. A point which should not be lost sight of, but which does not seem to have occurred to any of the committee, is this:—Will the promoters of the central market declare, as part of the conditions of its establishment, that union with it, or the conduct of transactions through it, shall be purely voluntary; and that any producer of or dealer in silk may dispose of his produce in any way he chooses without the meddlesome intervention of the central market? If the answer is in the affirmative, the question that suggests itself is, what consent of foreigners is required to an int-

stitution which is to improve the method of preparing and selling silk, which is to be purely permissive with regard to native merchants, and which is to attract business by its own merits? If the answer to the first question is qualified or ambiguous, then foreigners make a serious mistake in promising acceptance of conditions of which they now know nothing; and respecting which past Japanese action is not a favourable recommendation.

The persons primarily interested in the formation of a central warehouse are not known for their liberal tendencies towards other traders; and their *bond fides* are so much in doubt that some sponsors are necessary before any proposition emanating from them should be accepted. We all know that if it were not for the pressure applied by the promoters of the Rengo, producers would come into the foreign settlement in greater numbers than they do; and if, under any circumstances, the authority of the Rengo is to be transmitted to the central market, a virtual monopoly, as potent as a monopoly in fact, will be established with the consent and approval of foreigners.

Japanese merchants will do well to put little faith in the promises made by the foreign community in this matter. So long as the Japanese promoters act in good faith in the terms of the promises set out in their prospectus, foreign merchants will keep their words; but in that case, why ask for foreigners' approval beforehand of a scheme which is to be perfect? Should the central market attempt to enforce its conditions upon others, or interfere with individual action, it will arouse opposition as formidable as that which, allayed for the moment, is only dormant and not killed. To plunge into a considerable expenditure for the erection of suitable buildings for general inspection purposes on such a slender foundation as the qualified promise of a few foreign merchants is, to say the least of it, premature. The time when intimidation could be used to compel individuals to act under the orders and control of the majority, is passing by; and if Japanese merchants themselves consent to this new institution without thorough assurance of the purity of motive of those who urge it upon public attention, they will throw away the best chance which has ever been offered to them to reform the trade, correct abuses, secure a good understanding in the future, and establish their own independence as Japanese merchants proper.

Put not your trust in foreigner's promises in this matter, gentlemen. They are worth just as much as your own, and will be performed in exactly the same measure. What, therefore, is the value of them? If your own faith is good you need not ask for approval; if it is not, the approval is worse than valueless; it is a delusion and a snare.—Nov. 19.

#### "THE FLYING RUMOURS GATHER'D AS THEY ROLLED."

THE resignation of his Excellency OKUMA, for many years chief of the financial administration of the empire, and a distinguished member of the imperial government, has led to many other changes of a suggestive nature. To H. E. OKUMA is to be ascribed the formation of the first, and at this day, only line of steamers owned in Japan. To his exertions the moderate annual subsidy granted to the line is due. To his

influence may be traced the existence of those protective and exclusive navigation laws which virtually secure to one person or undertaking the close monopoly of the coast trade which is vested in the hands of the Mitsui Bishi Company, a line which has secured the confidence of the public by the regularity of its working; the manner in which its ships are kept up to the proper standard of high seaworthiness; and the general disposition evinced to meet the requirements of trade. This company receives government subsidies amounting to the very modest sum of yen 277,333, 15,000 of which is paid towards the marine school, 9,000 for the service of Okinawa, and 3,333 for that to Korea, the Hongkong service being undertaken without compensation. These allowances are charged to the expenditure of the marine office, a sub-department of the post office, which has, since its formation, been under the able supervision of Mr. MAYESIMA, late postmaster-general. The ability with which Mr. MAYESIMA discharged his onerous duties; the importance to foreign commercial interests, apart from the internal postal arrangements of Japan, of his retention in office, and the frivolous character of the charges which formed the pretext for his removal, point to a probable movement of some significance in regard to the coast trade and the persons who are to participate in its benefits in future.

So long as a monopoly of this vital portion of a healthy native commerce is permitted, just so long will all right-minded people make it the object of attack and condemnation. Any movement which should have a tendency to abolish the monopoly would be hailed with satisfaction as a step in the right direction. But the rumours which point to a transfer of the privileges from one company to another, based upon the removal of the two high officials, one of whom was the avowed supporter of the Mitsui Bishi Company, and the other competent to testify to the praiseworthy performance of its public service, lead to the supposition that influences adverse to the Mitsui Bishi and favourable to another undertaking are already at work, and that those influences are not unconnected with a rival commercial company.

There are few places where rumour finds such ready listeners as in this portion of Japan. Every official change is regarded as the forerunner of some new commercial scheme for the benefit of individuals, and to the injury of the community. The mere withdrawal of the annual subsidy, (equivalent to a poor 2 yen per mile for the Shanghai line only, omitting the vast mileage of the coast postal service), would not be an insurmountable deprivation, as the company would then be in a position to discontinue some of the less profitable branches of its trade; but if the protecting arm of the government is to be withdrawn from a tried undertaking for the purpose of being exerted in favour of a less competent and less wealthy rival, the change must be fraught with grave consequences to the public; for, serious as is the objection to the principle of the Mitsui Bishi Company's existence, opinion is unanimous to the effect that no monopoly in Japan has been less abused, when the enormous advantages it offers to an unscrupulous man are considered, than that of the coast trade. The change foreshadowed by the resignation of one of the most distinguished members of the cabinet, a minister of undoubted parts and ability, and one of the most able executive officers of the present administration, is already freely discussed in public; and the

names of one prominent government official and one foreigner are associated with what some persons style coming reform in the coast trade, but which is regarded by many earnest people with alarm as fresh evidence of that capricious, undue, and improper influence which effectually bars the people from the enjoyment of those rights without which the commercial future of Japan is devoid of a single ray of hope.—Nov. 19.

## Miscellaneous Articles.

### FIRES AND FIRE ENGINES.

#### I.

THAT "fire is a good servant and a bad master" we have had abundant proof here in Yokohama. The dread sound of the fire bell is by no means strange to our ears. Year after year, and month after month, the community have been called on to witness terrible conflagrations accompanied more or less with fearful destruction of property and some loss of life; and yet nothing is done either to avert or to remedy the evil any more than if fire were an almost unknown occurrence. True, there are fire brigades and costly steam fire engines, but whether they are as effective as they might be is an open question.

Concerning fire engines we have no special knowledge. Nevertheless we consider the question of the prevention and extinction of fires in a place like this, where most of the houses are built of wood; to be of so much importance and of such vital interest to the community that we gladly open our columns to its discussion.

An old and esteemed resident of Yokohama who has had much experience as a fireman, and has often rendered most essential service to the community, has placed a series of memoranda at our disposal with a view to bringing before the public some real impression of the great danger they incur by neglecting to provide effectual means of protection against the spread of fire in the event of an outbreak. He views with alarm the apathy and indifference which prevail on the subject; he desires to give the benefit of his experience and to offer a few words of warning and advice. Mr. HERT expresses himself to the following effect.

The misery and damage caused by fire, especially in this country, render it incumbent on every one to contribute his knowledge and experience in a discussion as to the best means of preventing this fearful calamity, and the question arises how are we to fight the enemy?

In answering this question many points have to be taken into consideration as the engines have to be built to suit the requirements of the place. Those which would be required to overcome fires in a town where houses are built of solid masonry and are often seven or eight stories high, would not do at all in a place where wood is principally used in their construction, and where the flames are liable to break out in several places in a short space of time.

The latter is the case in Yokohama where houses are never more than two stories high. Small, light engines would therefore be most effective. They can be easily and quickly brought to the scene of the conflagration and the streams of water issuing

from them will reach the top of the highest building we have.

To the credit of the Japanese it may be said that they are firemen "to the manner born;" they are always ready to help, and any number of willing hands can always be obtained for a small remuneration.

To effectually extinguish a fire and to lessen the damage as much as possible it is of paramount importance that no time should be lost in rendering assistance, so as to get the flames under before they have had time to spread. It is therefore the duty of every fire brigade, as soon as the alarm is given, to send on light hand engines with a few men. Published records prove that many fires, by this means, are "nipped in the bud," and that steam engines, as a rule, enter on the scene either "just in time to be too late," or when the flames are too much advanced for them to be of much assistance. Capt. SHAW, superintendent of the London Fire Brigade says:—"Out of 4,199 London fires during 1878, no fewer than 2,540 were extinguished by the London Brigade hand pump." The following table extracted from a recent report of the Amsterdam Fire Brigade will show how effectual hand engines are in subduing the "devouring element:"—

YEARS.	NUMBERS OF FIRES EXTINGUISHED WITH						
	one hand engine.	two hand engines.	three hand engines.	four hand engines.	five hand engines.	six hand engines.	seven hand engines.
1875	15	9	7*	6*	3*	1	1*
1876	18	6	8*	4*	3*	1*	0
1877	27	8	3*	0	1	2*	0
1878	23	10*	9*	5*	4*	2*	0
1879	31	13	4*	8*	2*	2	0
1880	25	12	7*	2*	2*	1*	1*

\* In these fires steam was used.

To illustrate our meaning a little more clearly it may perhaps not be out of place to quote one or two passages from a work entitled *Fires, Fire Engines and Fire Brigades* by C. F. T. Young, C. E., which we have before us:—

"Every fire, however large, must evidently have originated from a small beginning, and could doubtless have been prevented from assuming large and destructive proportions were the means of checking its incipient mischief easily and quickly obtainable. Fires continually become destructive from delays in bringing the engines to the spot, from want of water when they have got there, or delay in getting the engines to work."

"It is an indisputable and well-known fact that the quicker a fire can be discovered and taken in hand, the more easily it can be extinguished, the less severe the damage or loss will be, and the less the amount of water that will be wasted. To secure these three desirable ends, no reasonable amount of trouble or expense should be spared; and, in fact, in a matter of such vital importance to the community at large, it is a serious question if expense should be considered at all."

"Such a system as this is what is required in the large towns and cities of Great Britain, and in London especially; for past and present experience have shown in the case of serious conflagrations, how important it is to have the earliest possible notice of a fire, and that the least possible amount of time may elapse before it be taken in hand. In the majority of cases a hand pump, or even a less powerful means, would have prevented loss of hundreds of thousands of pounds; and even at a later period of the fire, the saving of ten minutes would have made all the difference."

Another important point to consider is the supply of water; and as a rule wells are always at hand in the settlement. Until we are provided with water-works engines ought always to be furnished with buckets and arrangements made for water to be carried by men in strapped *saké* barrels. A number of tubs might also be kept filled in every compound and at the corners of streets. By this means there would always be an ample supply of water ready to hand in case of emergency. Experience has shown how difficult it is to start the suction hose and how much valuable time is often lost.

Many years ago an engine built on the above principle was ordered from Europe. It was generally first in the field and gave great satisfaction. If we had a few more of the same sort they would soon prove a source of immense profit to the community as well as to underwriters.

Safety in Yokohama lies, not so much in a large stream of water from a steam engine, as from a number of small ones being brought to play on the fire so as to prevent its further spread. Small hand engines can get into places where large ones worked by steam could not possibly find their way. The fire brigade formerly had two hand engines, but sold them by public auction and they now pin their faith on steam. This was decidedly a retrogressive step on their part, for it has been proved by statistics that only 33 per cent of fires in England are extinguished by the latter means; while in this settlement we do not know of any one fire prevented or extinguished by the steam engine.

A house fairly on fire in this place is always destroyed. The exertions of firemen must therefore be directed against the spread of the flames, and this can always be done at the outset with a very small stream of water. The wages paid to the engineer of a steam engine alone will suffice for upwards of a dozen drilled men who could be always on duty to render assistance whenever wanted. Small hand engines can be transported from place to place as easily as *jirikisha*, and can always be at work in five minutes after arrival. Not so the steam engine. It will take half an hour at least to get the steam up even when the engineer is within call, but if that functionary should be absent, asleep, or ill the chances are that it would be impossible for the ponderous machine to put in an appearance at all. In any case, there are few places except the bund and the creek where a sufficient and convenient water supply could be procured for such "white elephants." How much money is wasted on the steam fire engine the following estimate will show.

The engineer's wages are \$70 per month. This sum is sufficient to pay fourteen Japanese firemen at eight yen a month which would be an ample staff for seven small hand engines which could be always held in readiness to turn out with two men each at a moment's notice. They could be properly trained and an arrangement might be made with others who would be only too willing to render assistance for a trifling remuneration. If these small engines are stationed in different parts of the settlement some of them could easily, going at *jirikisha* speed, get to the scene of a fire in about five minutes after the alarm is given, and after a similar interval be ready to send a stream of one centimetre in diameter sixty feet high on the burning building, which would be more than sufficient at the first outbreak. In half an hour, at the most, the seven engines would be all at work, and

it is very doubtful if a steam engine, even under the most favourable circumstances, could be brought to the scene of a fire in that space of time. It may be added that the sum of money which has been spent on one steam engine would suffice to provide a large number of small hand ones.

The police, who are quick enough in turning out at the sound of the fire bell should have their proper duties assigned to them, and not be permitted to meddle indiscriminately with anything and everything. It is for them to keep the road clear leading to and from the water supply so that the bearers may pass and repass without let or hindrance for the purpose of replenishing their buckets.

In order that firemen may be thoroughly expert in their duties and to ensure that the engines are in good order they should be exercised at least once a month.

For the present we will stop to resume the subject at an early period, and give some further results of Mr. Hægt's varied experience as a fireman. Too much credit cannot be given to him for the thoughtful care he has displayed for a period extending over many years in promoting the safety of the community. He has studied the matter most attentively, and any opinion expressed by him thereon is certainly entitled to respect; it is therefore to be hoped that our gallant fire brigade will not fail to profit by the advice he offers for their information and guidance in the performance of their arduous and important duties: and that at an early date a committee will be formed to organize a more effective system of fire prevention than that which now is rather more costly and embarrassing than it can ever be useful.—Nov. 5.

## II.

WE now proceed with the examination and investigation of Mr. Hægt's useful and valuable notes and memoranda on the subject of fires and fire engines.

Mr. Hægt has directed our attention to a map of the settlement by which he shows of what little use steam fire engines really are. They are so cumbersome that they can only be fed from a large volume of water. As long as a fire takes place within a radius of one hundred, or one hundred and fifty yards from the bund, all well and good. But should one break out at a further distance from that locality there would be little or no chance of the ponderous machine being of any service. With Mr. Hægt's hand engines the case is far different. They are so small and light that they could be supplied from any well, tank, or running stream, and are so easily connected one with another that they could be made to reach to a fire, no matter how far it may be from water, as long as there was an unlimited supply of hose.

We will here introduce a translation of the introduction of a "Hand-book for Fire Brigades" by Y. C. Dyckmeester, Commander of the Amsterdam Fire Brigade, which contains many valuable suggestions:—

"It is a sad prospect for the national welfare that so many necessary and important fire brigades have become careless and inefficient from want of proper control being exercised by the authorities."

"When there is a fire there is disorder and confusion. Everybody commands and nobody obeys. The flames take the opportunity to spread, and by the time everything is in readiness there is nothing left to be saved."

"The fire engines are frequently of an antiquated and obsolete construction, are

often badly kept, and badly handled, and consequently are very imperfect in operation and sometimes will not work at all. These facts are so well known by the public that it is needless to dilate on them."

"Most serious consideration is called for to remedy this state of affairs, and every citizen is in duty bound to assist in the work. This book is therefore dedicated to commanders and officers of fire brigades, and all others interested in the matter."

"Communities who are anxious for reform in their fire brigades will find the means of effecting them pointed out, and those who can not, or will not, cast aside old traditions will learn how to improve the mode of working to which they so tenaciously adhere. We hope the hand-book will be regarded in the light of an earnest warning to be up and doing, and not to delay improvements until a disastrous fire breaks out."

Mr. HERT has translated a few passages from the body of the work. They are somewhat lengthy, and may perhaps try the patience of those who prefer a more sensational style of reading. They contain so many important hints, however, that we do not feel justified in suppressing them:—

"**Organisation.**—As a rule, far too little importance is attached to the proper organization of a fire brigade, and it is only after numerous, bitter complaints, and after many fires that the necessity for improvement is felt. A cry is raised for more engines, many clamour for a steam engine, and all the available money is at once expended."

Much as we appreciate a plentiful supply of engines, we believe it will be found to be much more to the purpose to ensure better organization and to adopt means to fulfil the following requisitions:—

1st.—To ascertain as quickly as possible the exact place of the fire.

2nd.—To get there as soon as possible.

3rd.—To have sufficient engines and means to save human life.

4th.—To have a sufficient supply of water.

5th.—To have drilled men able to work the engines.

6th.—To have one commander."

"**Professional Fire Brigades.**—Professional fire brigades consist of paid bodies of men whose duty is to extinguish fires, and to act on the fundamental principle of *staying all fires in the beginning.*"

"If subscriptions are raised and expended with care and judgment there is no reason why professional fire brigades should not exist in all towns" (not excepting Yokohama.)

"**Manual fire engines.**—The principal means of extinguishing fires are of course fire engines. And yet there are many places which have only very old and defective ones, which very often will not work when required, whilst there are other places which have none at all. Such useless lumber as that referred to had better be sold off at once, as the money they annually cost in repairs would be better expended in the purchase of new ones."

"Want of money is an excuse very frequently urged for not having a good engine; and it has often happened that a fire which might easily have been stopped at the onset by a small one, which was not forthcoming, has led to the destruction of a whole village."

"An oft repeated cry is "Oh! this will not happen here;" a false security is thus raised which in the end is paid for only too dearly. Then there is a rush from one extreme to the other. A community, which for years has been destitute of engines waste their

money in the purchase of one of enormous dimensions which requires a small army to work it."

"From a small engine that is easily worked, and which can be kept continually playing we have often more useful effect than from a large one that has to stop from time to time because there is no water, or because the men are exhausted by working it. Therefore you must always, in buying an engine, take into consideration your supply of water and men."

"When a community has to depend only on water supplied by pumps, or that has to be doled out by tubs &c., they ought never to take an engine larger than from 8 to 10 centimetres diameter in cylinder, because they will do more useful work than larger ones, which have to stop now and again through lack of water, during which intervals the flames may again ignite those parts of the building in which they have been previously extinguished. Even in places where neither water nor men are scarce it is not advisable, at the first outbreak, to take an engine larger than that above referred to."

"In most cases two small engines playing on a burning building in different places will have more effect than one large one; one of them will be almost directly at work, and in case of accident to either of them the firemen will never be helpless."

In every community there ought to be at least one engine to every thousand souls. It is utterly inexcusable for small villages, hamlets, factories, prisons, *hospitals*, large isolated buildings, small ships &c. to be unprovided with at least one portable engine, for it is an incontrovertible truth that when a fire starts, the *first and quickest help is the best and most effective and decides in most cases the fate of the attacked building.*

"The small expense of such an engine removes all hindrances to its general adoption, especially as it can be employed for other purposes such as watering grass and plants, cleaning windows, watering roads &c. &c."

In our first article we gave one or two passages from a work entitled *Fires, Fire Engines and Fire Brigades* by C. F. T. Young. We will now return to it and reproduce a few paragraphs, which are well worthy the attention of the Yokohama Fire Brigade:—

"A pailful of water applied on the discovery of the fire at its earliest stage would nearly always conquer it; but if not done at once, tons will be required to do what might have been done by pounds. Could any arrangement insure the application of water to a fire of the usual description within five minutes of its commencement, the progress of two-thirds of them would be effectually resisted; for a little water, even a pint, at that moment is everything."

As a case in point Mr. YOUNG relates the following circumstance which may be familiar to some of our readers:—

"In the great fire that occurred at Barclay's Brewery, where all except the malt lofts was destroyed, Mr. John Braithwaite was instrumental in saving some £60,000 worth of malt by such means. The beams on one side of the malt lofts had caught fire; he went across one of the beams with two pint pots, carrying a gallon of water under his arm, and applying it on the burning part he extinguished the fire in the beams, and the malt was saved. This shows the importance of having means at hand for attacking a fire at the earliest moment; and there can be no reason why every room in a house should

not have a small pail, can, or jug of water kept constantly filled, and a small hand pump also, so that, in the event of a fire breaking out, the means of attacking it would be ready at the shortest notice, and the fire extinguished at once, or kept in check until the arrival of more powerful means than those in the possession of the inmates."

Mr. W. BADDELY, C. E., says in one of his communications on the subject of extinguishing fires, that he has endeavoured to "impress the necessity of combating fires at *close quarters*; and I now add, that to stand on the *outside* of a house with the branch of a fire engine, so long as the *interior* can be advantageously and *safely* entered, exhibits a decided want of skill and courage, and is the principal, if not the sole, cause of the waste of water at fires."

We had marked several passages for quotation, but unfortunately our space is limited, and so one or two more must suffice. Many in Yokohama probably are under the impression that fire-extinguishing is the easiest thing in the world, and partakes much more of the character of sport than of sober, serious business. Let them read what follows and they will soon be undeceived:—

"The proper study of fire extinguishing, its principles and requirements, as a rule, has been entirely neglected in this country (England); and it is a question if it has ever been thoroughly considered. The fact that water will extinguish fire, and that an engine will throw water, seems to be about all that is known or cared for on the subject, and any scientific view of the question, or instructions to enable it to be carried out properly, have met with but little attention; and, in fact, to take an engine to a fire, get plenty of water, and pump away, might and main, is, so far as experience shows, all that is done or required."

"In France it will be found that fire extinguishing is made a study, and each fireman is instructed in the system and duties required of him, having to pass an examination on it to show that he is properly acquainted with his duties; and to this is no doubt owing the success with which fires are controlled by them, with means, to the eyes of an Englishman, of anything but a sufficient character. It has yet to be proved that such a plan and system are inapplicable elsewhere, and it is most desirable and important that, in arranging the new fire brigade, this should not be lost sight of."

When a fire occurs here in Yokohama the mighty steam engine very often shines by its absence. It failed, for instance, to put in an appearance at the general hospital on the occasion of the recent outbreak. If the question is asked why it did not turn out, the answer will probably be "no water." How far such a reply ought to be considered satisfactory we leave our readers to decide. This is what Mr. Young has to say on the question of water, or no water:—

"Every town and village of any size should possess at least a fire engine, buckets, and proper appliances ready for use when wanted, and also one or two parties who could take the lead in managing them, and seeing them maintained in working order. It is no use to say that because a fire has never happened, one shall not occur; and it certainly is not a very wise step to wait until a fire takes place and a large amount of property is destroyed, as well as life jeopardised, before the necessity of providing some means of checking it is shown to be apparent. During



the past year (1865) as well as long prior, there has been no want of cases to prove what might have been done had there been an engine and appliances at hand. No doubt in many cases it may be said, 'But where is the water to come from?' The answer is, that no place should be allowed to remain unprovided for in this respect; for even without an engine, what could be done if there was no water? and it is a most disgraceful state of things for any town or village to be suffered to remain without some easily available provision for this purpose. It is a rare case where means cannot be found to maintain one or two ponds or reservoirs in such proximity to a village, or even a single farm-house, as to be of great utility in the event of a fire occurring, and from which an engine might be supplied, or the water removed in buckets in the absence of an engine, as it is more frequently that the want of a provision of this sort is felt than the want of an engine where there is such a pond or reservoir."

"The desirability and importance of a copious and readily available system of water supply in all cities and towns cannot be too highly estimated or be too carefully and efficiently carried out. As a rule it will be found that in most places the system of water supply has been gradually developed, and started at first with too little regard to future requirements, or the probable increase in buildings or manufacturing operations."

Mr. HERR says his own fire engines are the result of close observation and long experience of fire extinguishing in this country. They are small, light, and portable, and can be quickly moved from one place to another to arrest the spread of flames. They are warranted to be of good workmanship and with moderate care, will last a lifetime. When filled they will work at once, and no trouble or delay is incurred by the use of suction hose. If a few tubs are kept filled with water in different parts of the settlement, and every dozen households join together for mutual protection, gangs of men being held in readiness to carry water, large fires, so disastrous to the country, can always be prevented.

For the money paid for the costly, but almost useless, steam engine a perfect brigade of small ones could be obtained as will be seen by the following calculation.

The big "white elephant" is said to have cost \$2,800. Twelve of Mr. HERR's engines at \$150 each would realise \$1,800, leaving \$1,000 for the purchase of 600 yards of hose and couplings. This would admit of four streams of water being played from a distance of 150 yards by connecting three engines together, viz:—one engine at the water, the second half way, and the third at the fire. This allows a wide margin, as it seldom happens that water is so remote from the scene of an outbreak as the distance above-named. Can the steam-engine be depended on for accomplishing as much?

In bringing this subject to the notice of the public Mr. HERR's sole object has been to impress the community with a sense of the peril in which they are placed by relying too much on a means which was never intended for attacking a fire at the outset, and which generally arrives too late to be of much service. The Bluff property has been allowed to remain almost totally unprotected, and so it continues to this day. As he has devoted much attention to the subject of fire extinguishing he feels it incumbent on him to give others the benefit of his experience. He purposes making a public trial of the powers of his engines,

and should the community thereby be induced to discuss the question farther, he will gladly place the Gaiety Theatre at their disposal for the purpose, and be present at the meeting to answer any questions, or to afford any information that it may be in his power to give.—Nov. 12.

### THE FOOD OF THE JAPANESE.

THE report by General VAN BUREN, headed as above, which was published in the *Japan Gazette* of the 29th. inst., must have commended itself to the favourable notice of most readers. Had they nothing else to recommend them the communications from the United States Consul General, which have frequently appeared in this paper would command attention from the fearlessness and honesty with which the writer expresses his opinions. One of our less known or less read poets says:—

Never yet  
Found I true dignity in anyone  
Who let the world's opinion cripple thought.

General VAN BUREN certainly does not let the world's opinion cripple his thoughts, for if he did he would not have advocated a vegetarian diet as plainly and as unmistakably as he does in the following passage:—

"The object of this paper will be to show, without too much detail, what food, under all these unfavorable circumstances, these people have been able to produce, its variety, comparative nutrition, and adaptability to the wants of the human economy; thus, to some extent, explaining the apparent anomaly of people exhibiting endurance of body and power of intellect to a very considerable degree, while deprived of the usual nutriment held to be essential to such developments."

Considering the weight of authority which he has on his side General VAN BUREN might have expressed himself a great deal more definitely than he has done. As he truly says, the "praises of beef are sung wherever Occidental civilization has penetrated." Englishmen, all the world over, never tire of their traditional roast beef, supplemented by plum pudding, and washed down with the soul-inspiring nectar of Bass or Allsop. But because they *do* eat, and *will* eat, beef and mutton until the end of the chapter it by no means follows that it is necessary for them to do so. It may be asserted that there are few who will dispute the opinion of the late Dr. PARKES on the subject of food. His work on "Practical Hygiene" is universally acknowledged as a standard authority on all sanitary questions. With respect to the relative value of food of the same class he says:—

"The chemical composition of animal and vegetable albuminates is very similar, and they manifestly serve equal purposes in the body. The meat-eater and the man who lives on corn, or peas and rice, are equally well nourished. But it has been supposed that either the kind or the rapidity of nutrition is different, and that the man who feeds on meat, or the carnivorous animal, will be more active, and be more able to exert a sudden violent effort, than the vegetarian, or the herbivorous animal, whose food has an equal potential energy, but which is supposed to be less easily evolved. The evidence in favour of this view seems to me very imperfect. The rapid movements of the carnivora

have been contrasted with the slow, dull action of domestic cattle; but, not to speak of the horse, whoever has seen the lightning movements of the wild antelope or cow, or even the wild pig, who is herbivorous in many cases, can doubt that vegetable feeders can exert a movement even more rapid and more enduring than the tiger or the wolf? And the evidence in men is the same. In India, the ill-fed people, on rice and a little millet or pea, may indeed show less power; but take the well-fed corn-eater, or even the well-fed rice and pea eater, and he will show, when in training, no inferiority to the meat-eaters. An argument has also been drawn from the complicated alimentary canal of the herbivora, but probably this is chiefly intended to digest the cellulose, and the digestion and absorption of albuminates may be as rapid as in other animals."

As Dr. PARKES probably did not practise vegetarianism the foregoing may be considered as strong and impartial testimony in favour of that system of diet. He discusses the advantages and disadvantages of meat with equal fairness and at considerable length; According to him the advantages of beef or mutton as food appear to be, the large amount of nitrogenous substance, the union of this with much fat, the presence of important salts, and iron. It is easily cooked at any time, in any manner and in any place, and is very digestible. Dr. PARKES was also inclined to think—though he appears to have had his doubts—that meat is more easily assimilated than vegetables, but he did not venture to assert that the use of large quantities of meat increased either bodily strength or mental faculties any more than any other kind of nitrogenous food. He said it was an uncertainty, and was content to leave it so. The great disadvantage of meat, he says, is the want of starch.

The relative value of meat and the vegetables best known in this country, or at least most used by foreigners, will be best understood from the following table which has been compiled from analyses made by the late Dr. PARKES and Dr. DE CHAUMONT. The figures given are not quite the same as those quoted by General VAN BUREN but the difference is very slight:—

ARTICLES.	IN 100 PARTS.			
	Water.	Albuminates.	Fats.	Carbo-hydrates.
Meat of best quality	74.4	20.5	3.5	1.6
Bread, average "	40.	8.	1.5	49.2
Wheat flour	15.	11.	2.	70.3
Rice	10.	5.	.8	84.2
Maize	13.5	10.	6.7	64.5
Potatoes	74.	1.5	.1	24.4
Carrots	85.	.6	.25	8.4
Cabbage	91.	.2	.5	5.8
Eggs	73.5	13.5	11.6	1.
Milk (sp. gr. 1030)	88.7	4.	3.7	5.
" (sp. gr. 1035)	90.	3.	2.5	3.9
Sugar	30.	...	...	98.5

These figures speak for themselves; the reader will easily form his own opinion.

Whilst this on subject it may be well to give one or two more quotations to show that General VAN BUREN has more reason on his side than at first appears. Few, if any, who read this are likely to adopt a vegetarian diet, but that need not prevent them from weighing the *pros* and *cons* with a view to discovering the truth.

The following passage is taken from a work published many years ago by a writer, who had devoted much attention to the question of food reform. Without endorsing everything he says, his opinion is at least entitled to be treated with due respect:—

"Comparative anatomy teaches us that man resembles the frugivorous animals in everything, the carnivorous in nothing. He

has neither claws wherewith to seize his prey, nor distinct and pointed teeth to tear the living fibre. A mandarin of the first class, with nails two inches long, would probably find them alone inefficient to hold even a hare. It is only by softening and disguising dead flesh by culinary preparation that it is rendered susceptible of mastication or digestion, and that the sight of its bloody juice and raw horror does not excite loathing and disgust."

"Man resembles no carnivorous animal. There is no exception, unless man be one, to the rule of herbivorous animals having cellulated colons."

"The orang-outang perfectly resembles man both in the order and in the number of his teeth. The orang-outang is the most anthropomorphic of the ape tribe, all of whom are strictly frugivorous. There is no other species of animals, which live on different food, in which this analogy exists. In many frugivorous animals the canine teeth are more pointed and distinct than those of man. The resemblance also of the human stomach to that of the orang-outang is greater than to that of any other animal."

"The structure of the human frame, then, is that of one fitted to a pure vegetable diet in every essential particular. It is true that the reluctance to abstain from animal food, in those who have been long accustomed to its stimulus, is so great in some persons of weak minds as to be scarcely overcome. But this is far from bringing any argument in its favour. A lamb, who was fed for some time on flesh by a ship's crew, refused its natural diet at the end of the voyage. There are numerous instances of horses, sheep, oxen and even wood-pigeons having been taught to live upon flesh until they have loathed their natural aliment. Young children evidently prefer pastry, oranges, apples, and other fruit, to the flesh of animals, until, by the gradual depravation of the digestive organs, the free use of vegetables has, for a time, produced serious inconveniences—for a time, I say, since there never was an instance wherein a change from spirituous liquors and animal food to vegetables and pure water has failed ultimately to invigorate the body by rendering its juices bland and consentaneous, and to restore to the mind that cheerfulness and elasticity which not one in fifty possesses on the present system. A love of strong liquors also is with difficulty taught infants. Almost every one remembers the wry faces which the first glass of port produced. Unsophisticated instinct is invariably unerring, but to decide on the fitness of animal food from the *perverted* appetites which its continued adoption produces, is to make the criminal a judge of his own cause. It is even worse, for it is appealing to the infatuated drunkard in a question of the salubrity of brandy."

The latter half of the last paragraph suggests a connection between meat-eating and wine-drinking. It is rather an intricate question to go into but it appears that the two, from the earliest ages of the world, have been anything but strangers to one another. There is the authority of scripture for believing that Noah, after the flood, took to flesh-eating. He seems to have adopted wine-drinking at one and the same time for it is said that he got drunk with wine. Whether the legend be regarded as an historical fact or not it is suggestive. Dr. JACKSON of New York does not hesitate to class them as cause and effect. He says:—

"It is certain that no person will drink without the desire to drink—the desire being

always the prompting motive to indulgence. How comes it then that we create this desire for strong drinks in our children? I answer, we do this through our wretched dietetic arrangements. I have made extensive inquiries—and my opportunities have been unusually large—and I never found a man who was in the habit of becoming intoxicated who did not own that he was more or less a glutton; nor have I ever heard of a man who was a drunkard who was careful in his dietetic habits. All historical facts confirm this view. If you go back into that period of civilisation known as the middle ages, and on to our own time, you will find in all places where drunkenness has prevailed, that there has existed with the drunkards, and with the population out of which drunkards are made, a gluttonous indulgence at table. The Norman baron was a glutton; the Saxon franklin was a glutton; the fat abbot was a glutton; the mitred priest was a glutton; the politician, statesman, merchant, who became a drunkard, was a glutton. Wherever men drank, they feasted gluttonously. They ate to excess, and thus they drank to excess. Had their habits of eating been corrected, their habits of drinking would have followed suit inevitably."

The foregoing must suffice. Vegetarians and temperance advocates may, if they please, pursue the inquiry further. Enough has been said to show that the theory advanced by General VAN BUREN is neither a new nor a rash one; and he has produced ample proof to support his arguments and inferences. He is an able writer; whatever reports emanate from his pen are evidently the outcome of keen observation and close study, and are always couched in a light, readable style which invariably gain for them the attention and approval of general readers who usually shun "official utterances" not only as being "unanswerable," but as dull, dry, and uninteresting. General VAN BUREN has made a new departure in this respect for which he cannot be too highly commended; his papers being valuable contributions to general knowledge of this country, and the social condition and habits of the people.—*Nov. 12.*

## Reviews.

### A DIPLOMATIST'S VIEW OF JAPAN.

THIS volume is the second by the same writer. In the former, announced as the commencement of a series of *Excursions autour du Monde*, he dwelt chiefly on China, and now gives personal experiences in India, Burmah, Malayasia, Japan, and the United States.<sup>(1)</sup> The Count de Rochechouart very much resembles those "gentlemen of quality" who occasionally used to condescend to write or translate books a couple of centuries ago. He treats his readers *de haut en bas*. He is constantly posing before them as a gentleman at large, who rarely takes so much trouble as he is now doing, and who hopes the poor devils who buy his book will be grateful to a "Ministre Plenipotentiaire" who descends from his pedestal and notices their existence at all. But if we can put up with

these airs of Monsieur le Ministre, we will find him a very chatty and pleasant, if not always trustworthy, guide. His placid deportment is disturbed by the position of the English in India. He accuses them of all sorts of horrible crimes;—

"The English are serious masters: they have no light hand, and when they think their interests engaged, they do not hesitate at any step. History is full of incidents which do honour neither to the generosity, nor even good faith of the leaders of that nation. These have not been of a nature to increase the sympathy of foreigners, and have provoked hatred which has resisted time, and the traces of which can never be effaced. Nowhere is this hatred so great as in India and Burmah. This history of the conquest of Bengal is full of details which make the names of Warren, (sic) Hasting, (sic) and Lord Clive synonymous with mendacity, &c., &c."

Curious it is that scarcely a foreigner can write on India and do bare justice to all that Englishmen have done and tried to do in that country. It may be that the splendour of the possession excites feelings of envy, hatred, and malice.

From the Malay Peninsula the author came on to Japan. He has little of interest to say respecting the country, and were it not for his remarks on the position of foreigners and extra-territoriality, we should have paid but scant attention to the book. He thinks that previous writers on this country have regarded the Japanese with too much indulgence, and their enthusiasm has led them into exaggeration. His plan, however, is simply to present his own impressions as they were written in his diary from day to day. This journal contained some statements which were dictated by a vigorous imagination rather than strict accuracy. So, at least, we surmise from specimens which he gives. Kobe, he states, is the port of Yogo, the ancient capital of Japan. It is a town as European as Shanghai or Hongkong, with this difference, that it is almost deserted. The hopes which led European merchants to settle there have not been realised, and as business was bad it became necessary to abandon the place, and now Kobe is only occupied during a portion of the year as a whaling station! Yokohama, however, makes up for this disappointment. It is the real centre, political and commercial, of Japan. The residents on the Bluff are highly aristocratic in their sentiments, and regard with contempt the poor people who live in the settlement. The nobles of Japan, in place of devoting their enormous wealth to the maintenance of their influence, are, it seems, ruining themselves by gambling and carousing.

On the subject of the treaties, however, we may listen with respect to the writer's remarks. He is a trained diplomatist, and it may therefore be well to see the questions which agitate us, as a trained 'outsider' sees them. The desire of every Japanese statesman, he observes, is to free his country from the yoke of the capitulations, or extra territorial clauses of the treaties with foreign powers, which withdraw foreigners from the jurisdiction of Japanese tribunals, and assure them a kind of impunity. But in place of obtaining this freedom by demonstrating to Europe the impartiality and integrity of Japanese judges, the Mikado's government endeavours to secure by it surprise, and by obtaining concessions which, although insignificant in appearance, have for their aim the des-

(1) *Les Indes, la Malaisie, le Japon, et les Etats-Unis*, par Le Cte. Julien de Rochechouart, Ministre Plenipotentiaire, Paris: E. Plon et Cie. 1891.

truction of the capitulations. It was easy to discover this intention and to frustrate it, and the Japanese have thus deferred rather than accelerated the period of their emancipation. Quoting the instance of the shooting regulations he says, the Japanese sought to compel Europeans to take out licenses to pursue game, forgetting that the consular tribunals alone were competent to punish for offences, and that they should influence the decisions of these courts by fixing beforehand the penalty for shooting without these licenses. The question of the right of residence outside the foreign concessions is also one which has caused difficulty. It is a fact, he says, of which the Japanese should be convinced, that the capitulations were imposed on them, not to wound their *amour-propre*, but because the legislation of any non-Christian country does not offer sufficient guarantee for the security of foreigners. When, in the seventeenth century, the capitulations were imposed on Turkey, and on the Barbary states, this was found necessary because the commands of the Koran, which was the law of these states, were in complete disaccord with Christian ideas. How, for example, could a Frenchman, a Spaniard, or an Englishman take an oath on the Koran? How could Christians be compelled to recognize as legitimate institutions such as polygamy? It was, therefore, in the interests of all parties that each should be made subject to its own law and its own judges. Later on, when the relations of western countries were extended to the extreme east, it was found right to establish the same rules. Chinese and Japanese laws are unknown; and it therefore appeared natural to guard the valuable interests of foreign merchants, by preserving the right of decision to their own courts in disputes with native merchants. It is, he says, only a question of patience and good faith; and Japan, in place of endeavouring to attain its ends by underhand methods, should seek to merit the sympathy and confidence of foreign nations by making real reforms.

We think the writer is in error in several respects here, and that he hardly does justice to the Japanese. The question of shooting regulations and many others, turn simply on the interpretation of the extra-territorial clauses of the treaties. The Japanese government, it is but just to say, seem never to have made a secret of their claim that the consular jurisdiction granted by these clauses did not include consular legislation, or supervision by the foreign ministers or consuls of Japanese legislation. They have not attempted by *ruse* or underhand methods to carry out their own interpretation; they have, on all necessary occasions, declared their views on the subject; and it is not long since one of their leading advisers published a learned and elaborate pamphlet to support these views, and the latter have been adopted by at least one foreign government. This is not the place to discuss the accuracy or propriety of the Japanese interpretation, but the writer under review is certainly incorrect in accusing the Mikado's government of deceit. He is also incorrect in the statement that the capitulations were wrung from Turkey. When in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries the Franks first settled for commercial purposes in the ports of the Levant, they were compelled to live in settlements or *ghettos*, cut off from the surrounding population. They were permitted by the Sultan to settle their own disputes among themselves, without the intervention of the Turkish authorities, and were indeed considered as beneath the

attention of the Faithful. The extra-territoriality which we at present enjoy was, in truth, the result of the contempt which the rulers of the Ottoman Empire had for us, and was not obtained by compulsion.

For the rest, it may be said that Count Rochechouart's views are not favourable to the Japanese. He does not think the reforms of the last decade are likely to be stable; and his comparison of the Chinese and Japanese leads him to dwell on the superiority of the former. We think his hastily formed judgments err as much on one side, as those of other 'globe-trotters' do on the other.

## Reports.

### NIPPON RACE CLUB.

#### AUTUMN MEETING, 1881.

#### THIRD DAY.

Monday 7th. November.

THE afternoon was beautiful, but nevertheless only a small number of people were attracted to the races. The first event was started half-an-hour behind time and fell to Mr. Geoghegan's stable, *Heartsease* being the winner.

1.—THE NURSERY CONSOLATION.—A Sweepstakes of \$10 each, with \$5 added, and Yen 60 to Japanese owner of winner at date of purchase. For subscription Japanese Griffins that have not won a race at the meeting. Weight as per scale. Three-quarters of a Mile.

Mr Geoghegan's <i>Heartsease</i> ...	...10st. 4lbs...	1
The Gunbakioku's <i>Hi-un</i> ...	...10st. 4lbs...	2
The Gunbakioku's <i>Horio</i> ...	...10st. 6lbs...	3
Mr Peacock's <i>Satsuma Crackle</i> ...	...10st. 0lbs...	0
Mr Okochi's <i>Onami</i> ...	...10st. 10lbs...	0
Mr Phillippus' <i>Atambo</i> ...	...10st. 0lbs...	0

*Hi-un* and *Heartsease* were in most request and the result proved this correct. After a little delay they got away in a cluster excepting *Satsuma Crackle*; *Heartsease* gradually drew out and increased his lead until the straight was reached when *Hi-un*, who had been difficult to keep straight, put on steam, and got within two lengths of the winner. Time, 1m. 44secs.

2.—THE CHINA CONSOLATION.—Value \$150. For China ponies that have not won a race at the meeting. Weight as per scale. Once round. Entrance, \$10.

Capt George's <i>Basuto</i> ...	...11st. 5lbs...	1
Capt. George's <i>Stiff Wind</i> ...	...11st. 2lbs...	2
Mr Buchanan's <i>Ginger</i> ...	...10st. 5lbs...	3
Mr Peacock's <i>Centaur</i> ...	...10st. 8lbs...	0
Mr Peacock's <i>Skeddaddle</i> ...	...10st. 2lbs...	0
Mr Fitz-henry's <i>Blue Ruin</i> ...	...10st. 5lbs...	0
Mr Geoghegan's <i>Chief Mongolian</i> ...	...11st. 1lbs...	0
Mr Doddson's <i>Snowstorm</i> ...	...10st. 8lbs...	0

*Basuto* and *Chief Mongolian* were made favourites, and Mr. Jaffray's stable supplied five starters. *Ginger* took a slight lead closely followed by the *Chief*, who passed him at the top of the hill and this order was maintained to the three furlong post where the ponies took close order, and when they reopened *Basuto* came away and won by four lengths and, after a hard struggle for second Capt. George secured that place also, *Snowstorm* being last. Time, 2ms. 15secs.

3.—THE HALF-BRED CONSOLATION.—A Sweepstakes of \$10 each, with \$50 added. For Half-bred ponies that have not won a race at the meeting. Weight as per scale. Three-quarters of a mile.

General Saigo's <i>Bon René</i> (7lb. ex. 10st. 10lbs.)	1
Mr Fujinami's <i>Kosakura</i> (7lb. ex.) 10st. 8lbs.	2

If there was a choice it was *Bon René*, but even money was the rule.

They started at the first attempt and *Kosakura* held a slight lead to the half mile post, when *Bon René* took a feeler and lay at his side to the trees where he drew away a length and easily maintained this advantage to the end. Time, 1 min. 35½ secs.

4.—THE JAPAN CONSOLATION.—Value \$150. For Japan ponies that have not won a race at the meeting. Weight as per scale. Five furlongs. Entrance \$10.

Mr Hugo's <i>Katerfelto</i> ...	...10st. 4lbs...	1
Mr Hugo's <i>Yamasaki</i> ...	...10st. 8lbs...	2

*Oyama* was sent on the course, but directly he began to move it was apparent that he was no use so was withdrawn, the other two going to the post. *Katerfelto* jumped off at score and the farther he went the wider the gap between him and his opponent until he slowed down in the straight and allowed *Yamasaki* to get within four lengths. *Yamasaki* pulling up as lame as *Oyama*. Time, 1 min. 27½ secs.

5.—THE WELTER CUP.—A Sweepstakes of \$10 each, with \$100 added. For Japan and China ponies that have not won a race in Hongkong, China, or Japan, in 1880 or 1881, and are not otherwise entered at the Meeting. To be ridden by members who have not had a winning mount at a meeting of the N.B.C., (winning rider of No. 9, Second Day, and of Welter Cup at Spring meeting, 1881, excepted). Japan ponies, 11st; China ponies, 12st. Three-quarters of a mile.

Mr Thomas' <i>Old Blue</i> ...	...12st...	1
Mr Durand's <i>Paladin</i> ...	...12st...	2
Mr Hugo's <i>Kinsatru</i> ...	...12st...	3
Mr Hugo's <i>Merrythought</i> ...	...12st...	0
Mr Buchanan's <i>Don Juan</i> ...	...12st...	0

*Old Blue* took the lead and going steadily at the half mile let *Paladin* come level with him, but when set going again came out three lengths and could not be caught. Time, 1m. 43½ secs.

6.—THE Y. U. CLUB CUP.—Presented. For China Ponies. A forced entry for all winners at the Meeting, except winner of Race No. 5, third day. Winners of one race, \$10 entrance; of two races, \$15; of three or more races, \$30. Optional to non-Winners at an Entrance of \$5. Entries to be made before Race No. 9, second day. Weight as per scale. One Mile and a quarter.

Mr Hugo's <i>Sunshine</i> ...	...10st. 2lbs...	1
Capt. George's <i>Basuto</i> ...	...11st. 5lbs...	2
Mr Phillippus' <i>Dunn Brown</i> ...	...10st. 8lbs...	3
Mr Hugo's <i>Sunset</i> ...	...10st. 5lbs...	0
Mr Durand's <i>Victor</i> ...	...10st. 2lbs...	0
Mr Dodd's <i>Snowstorm</i> ...	...10st. 8lbs...	0

Mr. Hugo declared to win with *Sunshine* if able. *Victor* and *Sunshine* raced past the stand the others (excepting *Snowstorm* who was out of it) going in a rush; this order was maintained until the ¼ mile post when *Dunn Brown* and *Basuto* came on and *Victor* having had enough fell behind *Sunshine* carried on and won by four lengths. Time, 2m. 49½sec.

7.—THE KUNAISSHO CUP.—Presented. For Half-bred Ponies. A forced entry for all

winners at the Meeting. Winners of one race, \$10 entrance; of two races, \$15; of three or more races, \$30. Optional to non-winners at an Entrance of \$5. Entries to be made Race No. 9, second day. Weight as per scale. One Mile and a half.

Mr Okochi's *Haku-un* (late *Hokuse*) 10st. 4lbs. 1  
Mr Gen. Saigo's *Bon René* ... 10st. 10lbs. 2  
Mr Fujinami's *Kusakura* ... 10st. 8lbs. 3

They went very slowly until they reached the Stand when *Haku-un* improved the pace and at the top of the hill was a length ahead, *Kusakura* tailing off. At the half mile post *Bon René* went up to *Haku-un*'s girths but could not get nearer; and condition telling *Bon René* could never over take him and the verdict was two lengths easily. Time, 3m. 19s.

8.—THE MITSU BISHI CHALLENGE CUP.—Value \$500. Presented by the Mitsu Bishi Mail Steam Ship Company. To be won at two consecutive Meetings by the same Pony. For Japan Ponies, A forced entry for all winners at the Meeting except winner of Race No. 5, Third Day. Winners of one Race, \$10 entrance; of two Races, \$15; of three or more Races, \$30—optional to non-winners at the entrance of \$5. Entrance fees to be paid to the winner until the Cup is finally won. Entries to be made before Race No. 9, Second Day. Weight as per scale. Optional for winners of Subscription Griffin Races. Once round.

Mr Buchanan's *Anandale* ... 10st. 8lbs. 1  
Mr Fujinami's *Ikadoushi* ... 10st. 8lbs. 2  
Mr Fujisaki's *Kamakura* ... 10st. 4lbs. 3  
Gen. Saigo's *Kito* (late *Jim Hills*) 10st. 4lbs. 0  
Mr Hugo's *Katerfello* ... 10st. 4lbs. 0

*Anandale* forced the pace up the hill were *Ikadoushi*, who was last at the start, went up and passed him and the two with *Kamakura* three length off third came to the bend when *Ikadoushi* ran out and *Anandale* taking advantage made the best of his way home which he managed to reach a head first; three length between second and third. Time, 2m. 18½.

9.—THE AUTUMN HANDICAP.—Value \$200. Handicap for Japan and China ponies. The Handicap to be framed as soon as possible after the last Race on the second day. Once round. Entrance \$10.

Mr Peacock's *Centaur* ... 10st. 9lbs. 1  
Mr Hugo's *Sunrise* ... 11st. 8lbs. 2  
Capt. George's *Stiff Wind* ... 10st. 0lbs. 3  
Mr Peacock's *Skedaddle* ... 10st. 5lbs. 0  
Mr Buchanan's *Anandale* ... 10st. 5lbs. 0  
Mr Hugo's *Sunshine* ... 11st. 0lbs. 0  
Mr Geoghagan's *Chief Mongolian* ... 11st. 5lbs. 0  
Mr Durant's *Dartmoor* ... 10st. 7lbs. 0  
Mr Phillippus' *Louis d'Or* ... 10st. 2lbs. 0  
Mr Phillippus' *Dunn Brown* ... 11st. 4lbs. 0  
Mr Fujisaki's *Kamakura* ... 10st. 0lbs. 0

It was nearly dark when the ponies came to the post, and on the word "go" *Sunrise* and *Skedaddle* got away and ran the course, the former afterwards weighed in and claimed the race. A second start was made when they went away in a cluster so that it was hard to tell which were the leaders, but at top of the hill *Centaur* was made out as leading; the next view was in the straight when two grey ponies were ahead one *Centaur* and he managed to beat the top weight *Sunrise* by a length. It was too dark make out any of the others. The above return is on the second start, but the race remains in abeyance waiting the decision of the stewards. Time, 2m. 15sec.

## CRICKET.

We append the score of the cricket match played on Saturday (12th inst.), and which was, we presume, the final match of the season. The Y. C. C. again were victorious winning a very close game by only 2 runs. Mr. I. D. Walker was singularly unlucky although when batting for an absentee he got into double figures. Mr. Duff was also the only one on the side of the Y. C. C. who achieved the distinction.

## VISITORS AND NAVY.

I. D. Walker, b. Thomson	0
R. H. Brown, c. Thomson, b. Wheeler	2
Lieut. Elwyn, b. Thomson	0
J. H. Bullock, b. Thomson	0
Dr. Large, b. Thomson	18
F. H. Windham, run out	9
Substitute (I. D. Walker) not out	10
P. Need, b. Thomson	1
G. Platt, c. Doodds b. Thomson	0
C. E. Stephens, c. Substitute b. Thomson	16
C. D. Moss, b. Thomson	0
Byes	3
Wides	4

## Y. C. CLUB.

Dr. E. Wheeler, c. & b. Walker	3
J. P. Mollison, b. Brown	9
E. Abbott, c. Brown, b. Walker	3
J. H. Thompson, st. Brown	19
M. Duff, l. b. w. Stephens	9
W. B. Thomson, b. Brown	3
W. Sutter, b. Walker	2
J. Dodds, b. Walker	0
A. Milne, not out	8
A. Hearne, c. Bullock, b. Walker	0
H. C. Litchfield, c. Platt, b. Walker	0
Byes	4
Leg Byes	3
Wides	2

## BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	Balls.	Runs.	Maidens.	Wickets.	Wides.
Thomson	82	28	3	3	—
Wheeler	35	11	2	1	—
Abbott	45	17	2	—	4
I. D. Walker	69	27	4	6	—
Brown	40	21	—	3	2
Stephens	25	8	1	1	—

## VISITORS AND NAVY.

## 2ND INNING.

R. H. Brown, c. Sutter, b. Thomson	15
F. H. Windham, run out	1
A. C. Reed, b. Wheeler	2
F. H. Bullock, c. Thompson, b. Thomson	0
I. D. Walker, st. Duff, b. Thomson	4
Dr. Large, b. Thomson	8
Lieut. Elwyn, b. Thomson	0
C. E. Stephens, c. Wheeler, b. Abbott	0
C. D. Moss, b. Abbott	1
P. Need, b. Abbott	3
G. Platt, not out	0
Leg Byes	4
Wides	4

## SECOND INNING.

	Balls.	Runs.	Maidens.	Wickets.	Wides.
Thomson	29	15	4	6	—
Wheeler	25	8	2	1	1
Abbott	30	11	2	2	3

## FOREIGN SILK ASSOCIATION.

A MEETING of the foreign silk association was held yesterday (15th inst.). Mr. Kingdon gave a brief chronological sketch of what had passed since the last meeting. He pointed out that the thanks of the association were due to two members for their action during the interval, namely, Messrs. Ludwig and Abegg, the former having brought an

action before the Yokohama Saibansho for breach of contract to deliver silk, virtually against the Rengo, with success: and that by this action information was elicited that the Japanese merchants in the interior could not have any direct dealings with foreigners; and that all their dealings must be conducted through a privileged commission agent in Yokohama. Mr. Abegg had performed even a greater work than this. He had been persistent in forcing the Rengo to open its doors and allow silk to be taken to his godowns for inspection; and by his unaided efforts had completely destroyed the Rengo by being successful in his endeavours. He obtained the silk he had purchased, and all the rules of the Rengo were, by this act, broken through. Unfortunately, within an hour of this transaction the Rengo again recovered strength from the presentation of a memorandum by an official member of the association personally agreeing to the proposition of a general warehouse, whereby all the good resulting from Mr. Abegg's action was nullified.

Mr. Walsh next addressed the meeting and spoke as follows:—

You have heard the minutes of the conference which took place at Tokio on the 2nd instant between Messrs. Shibusawa and Masuda, Mr. Wilkin and myself. It was understood on that occasion that the result should be submitted to a general meeting of the foreign silk merchants as early as possible. Holidays and mail days have however intervened, and the present is the first meeting convened during this month.

In accordance with the promise made at the conference I beg now to propose to you that this meeting should accept the idea of a central market for the silk trade, on the conditions set forth in the minutes referred to. Messrs. Shibusawa and Masuda, in whose good faith I have great confidence, assure us that if this idea can be accepted, the location, rules and arrangements of the market will be determined only after consultation with the foreign silk buyers, and with every regard to their convenience; and that meanwhile silk business will be resumed on acceptable conditions. You have those conditions before you. They require of us only that silk delivered to us for inspection shall be held in trust for the owners until final settlement; shall be insured while in buyers' custody; shall be exactly weighed, and shall be finally settled within a reasonable time. On the other hand the sellers engage to deliver the silk honestly, and to refer any disputes as to quality or conformity to sample to impartial arbitration. These conditions appear to me to be equitable, and, if probably carried out, will probably prove unobjectionable. I do not see how we can fairly demand more from the Japanese silk dealers.

Coupled with these reforms, is the condition that we should recognize the idea of a central market. I know very well that such a recognition is very distasteful to many here. It is apprehended that such an establishment will be worked as a monopoly, and will tend to confine the silk trade in the hands of a few Japanese firms. Further, it is felt that the original plan of the Ito Gwaishan was put forward in so objectionable a manner, and has led to so many unjust accusations on the side of the Japanese, and to such bitter feeling on both sides, that the proposed substitute for it is not likely to be carried out in a fair and legal spirit.

To those who make these objections I ask leave to say that they seem to me exaggerated.

A central market may easily be a great improvement on the old system of buying silk at the shops of the sellers and inspecting it at the godowns of the buyers. That system permits, and almost invites abuses on both sides, and it has not worked with entire satisfaction to either. Even those who have most warmly defended it must admit that it is open to some serious objections, and that the Japanese who demur to it are not entirely without reason. The only excuse we can give for having heretofore required the Japanese to conform to a rule which is the very opposite to that which we observe in our sales to them, is that we cannot trust them. But this is a reason they very naturally rebel against; and if, through any organization among themselves, they can remove the grounds of that distrust, they are fairly entitled



to make it, and to demand for it favorable consideration on our part.

I grant that they have uttered much nonsense, and many offensive and unjust charges in connection with this demand, but we cannot be surprised that they feel keenly the degradation which our rules of business have fastened upon them. It is even a hopeful sign of possible improvement that they exhibit such a feeling, and we may reasonably welcome its appearance on that ground. For self-respect is a necessary step towards honesty.

Now let us consider whether the proposed organization can effect the reform which we all desire. It seems to me that it may do so. Many years ago, when the character of Japanese silk was even worse than it is now, I myself, in concert with Mr. Piquet, suggested to the Japanese just such a plan as a means of improving the quality of silk and of checking the fraudulent practices of the producers and dealers. But the essential feature of any such plan is that those who furnish capital to trade should have the means of enforcing honest conduct on the part of the merchants and producers. The present banking system not having then been established, each adventurer acted for himself, and all were without the requisite interest or power to promote any reforms. The case is different now. The bankers, bound by their rules and responsibilities, are compelled to look beyond the character of the individual with whom they deal to that of the merchandise on which they make advances. For their own security some system of classifying and valuing the silk, and of controlling it while under lien to them, is indispensable. This is so obvious that I need not dwell upon the point. Now this sort of control is what the Japanese profess to aim at through the establishment of a central warehouse under the management of a responsible association, and so far as that end is concerned, I not only see no objection to the scheme, but am convinced that it could be advantageous to every one connected with the trade. It could not possibly affect prices injuriously, for it could not exercise any compulsion on buyers in this respect; and we know that foreign buyers regulate their purchases, not by conditions of the Japanese market, but by those which prevail in Europe, paying always the utmost that these last will allow them to pay, generally something more on account of their own hopefulness. They have always done this, and they will continue to do it. Nothing that the sellers of silk may do, can have any permanent effect on the views of buyers in this regard. But what a central warehouse could very easily effect would be such an improvement in the practices of the silk dealers as would enable buyers to operate with much greater certainty and despatch than are now possible. The classification and control which the bankers' garnishees would insist upon would be a guarantee against gross deceptions, and a check upon every attempt to defraud.

It is in my view very unfortunate that the Japanese were so ill-advised as to connect this legitimate object with others which are of a very different character. Under the modifications of their scheme which are now offered, however many of these objectionable aims are abandoned. There remains really only the suspicion that the plan may be used to cover a monopoly. But on this score we can afford, I believe, to trust the future. Our recognition of the principle of a central warehouse can in no way deprive us of our right to contend against such a monopoly when we detect it in operation. The fact that Messrs. Shibusawa and Masuda declare most earnestly that no monopoly is involved in the plan, debars the silkmen from attempting it, and leaves us as free at any time to resist it as we are now. Moreover, any monopoly in the silk trade is sure to affect producers in Japan far more injuriously than it can affect buyers, who will certainly not pay higher prices for monopolized silk than for free silk. The producers would in fact be the only sufferers by a monopoly, and we may be quite sure eventually of their cooperation in any protests we may have to make against it, and of their breaking up the monopoly. They seem just now ready to sacrifice their interests to what they call their patriotism; but they are human, and tolerably avaricious, and we may, I believe, entirely depend on their finally preferring their own private interests to any mere sentiment. Those interests will infallibly array them against any such monopoly as we now apprehend, and we are quite safe, in my judgment, in leaving this matter in their hands.

As to any complicity of the government in the plan proposed, we have certainly no such evidence as warrants our considering it a fact. It is very possible that in the dispute which has arisen the

government officers favor the Japanese side. This is quite natural. But the ministers have explicitly declared that government is in no way concerned in the schemes which have been broached, and this declaration will preclude any government aid to the silkmen in case they attempt to push their plans beyond a legitimate object. I think therefore that we have really nothing to apprehend either on that score or on the score of a monopoly and that we may safely consider the central warehouse plan on its own merits alone.

So considered I can find nothing in it so objectionable as to justify me in opposing it. If a central warehouse and exchange be arranged as the Japanese now propose, I believe it will facilitate business, and I see no reason for refusing to it the recognition which the silk dealers ask of us. To maintain an attitude of uncompromising opposition; to refuse the slight concessions which we are now asked to agree to, and to continue the present deadlock indefinitely, for no better reason than that we suspect sinister designs on the part of those whom we know to be anxious to resume trade, appears to me, under the circumstances, illogical and unreasonable. I cannot believe that such an attitude on our part will find approval abroad, where people will be apt to say that business men should not allow themselves to be governed solely by their feelings, but that merchants in Japan must expect to take the Japanese character as they find it, and to do the best they can with its peculiarities.

It must be quite evident to you all by this time that whether the Japanese people are wise or foolish, right or wrong, in the questions which are now pending between the silk dealers and ourselves, they are in earnest in thinking themselves entitled to some concessions on our part, and that to oppose a simple *non possumus* to all their requests is likely to intensify the present hostile feeling toward foreigners. And this will be not less the case, but more if we could hope finally to compel the other side to give way entirely. Such an issue could not fail, I think, to entail much bitterness of feeling, and to result in new plans against us, and in fresh subjects of irritation, as soon as the present financial pressure was relieved, and when circumstances should again favor the silkdealers. Is it worth our while to incur this risk, and to expose ourselves to general reproach as impractical men, when, by conciliatory measures which really impose no hardships on us, and which in no way commit us to endure any injustice hereafter, we may give the other side some satisfaction, and obtain from them nearly or quite all that but a few weeks ago we should have readily accepted? For it must be remembered that some of us were then willing to deal in the guild's warehouse, and that it is rather through the blundering of the Japanese than through our own sagacity that we are now offered a scheme of business in the arrangement of which our convenience and wishes are to be first consulted.

Moreover it ought to be considered that our own acts have led the silk dealers to so commit themselves in the eyes of their compatriots that they cannot now wholly abandon their position without disgrace. It is too much to expect them to submit to this and it can hardly be for our interest, it certainly cannot ameliorate our relations with them to require so much, even if we could be quite sure of obtaining it, from their necessities. We can afford, I think, to be generous and considerate in this respect, and I hope that a sufficient number will be found of this opinion to induce us now to agree to the conciliatory accommodation which I have ventured to urge upon your attention.

I beg therefore to propose that this meeting accepts the plan of a central warehouse for silk business on the conditions that it be conveniently located and properly arranged after consultation with buyers, and that meanwhile silk business be resumed on the terms proposed in the memorandum lately submitted.

This motion, not being seconded, fell to the ground.

Mr. W. B. Walter then proposed the adoption of a proposition for a general warehouse as presented to the association by the import merchants of Yokohama, with certain modifications which a committee, to be appointed by ballot at the meeting, should endeavour to obtain. The proposition was as follows:—

Yokohama, 14th November, 1881.

To the chairman of the meeting of foreign silk merchants.

Sir,—If a resolution is passed at a public

meeting, approving the agreement which we submit now, then we guarantee that business shall be resumed on these terms.

The resolution is to be communicated to us in writing by the chairman of the meeting, but no individual signature will be required to the agreement.

We are, sir,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed)	Nakamura Sobei.
"	Kimura Riyemon.
"	Horikoshi Kakijiro.
"	Miura Hioauke.
"	Sugimura Juzaburo.
"	Ohama Chuzaburo.
"	Honda Buyemon.
"	Satsura Jihei.
"	Mayekawa Tarobei.
"	Kakinuma Masakichi.

Representatives of the import merchants of Yokohama.

#### AGREEMENT.

Following items, having been proposed by Japanese import merchants to settle the difficulty between foreign silk merchants and Japanese silk merchants, are agreed upon.

1.—If a general warehouse can be conveniently constructed in a convenient place by Japanese merchants, where buyers and sellers can be satisfied that their rights will be preserved, and by which the method for the sale of silk shall be generally improved, we shall be in favour of it.

2.—Silk should be delivered like the muster.

3.—Until such arrangements as mentioned in the above two articles can be made, the silk will be brought into foreigners' godowns and foreign buyers will give a godown order and guarantee for fire insurance until the inspection is completed.

4.—A written contract should be signed by both the buyers and sellers, when business commences, and agreeing upon the price, the time allowed for inspection and the sellers should be bound to deliver proper quality of silk.

5.—Weight should be just.

6.—In case of dispute, it should be agreed to call in an umpire or umpires from both parties.

Provisional guarantee of the import merchants.

We, the Japanese import merchants of Yokohama, hereby guarantee that if ever a general warehouse for silk as mentioned in article No. 1 of the agreement of this date shall be established it shall not be part of any scheme which shall be a monopoly, and that it shall not be used for the purposes of a monopoly, nor be in any way connected with a monopoly.

(Signed)	Nakamura Sobei.
"	Kimura Riyemon.
"	Horikoshi Kakijiro.
"	Miura Hioauke.
"	Sugimura Juzaburo.
"	Ohama Chuzaburo.
"	Honda Buyemon.
"	Satsuma Jihei.
"	Mayekawa Tarobei.
"	Kakinuma Masakichi.

Representatives of the Import Merchants of Yokohama.

Dated at Yokohama, 14th Nov. 1881.

Mr. Wilkin seconded this proposition which was carried, and a ballot resulted in the election of Messrs. Wilkin, W. B. Walter and J. A. Fraser as a committee to confer with the import merchants upon their proposition. The meeting then dissolved.

# THE FOREIGN SILK MERCHANTS' ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the members of the Silk Trade Association was held on the 17th. instant at the Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Thomas in the Chair.

No full record of the minutes having been taken, the Chairman read the report of the last meeting as given in the *Japan Herald* and *Japan Gazette* of the previous evening and stated that such being incomplete, it rested with the present meeting to confirm them or pass a resolution to have them revised and amended.

Mr. Kingdon stated that he had been obliged to furnish the reports which have appeared in the *Japan Herald* and *Japan Gazette* from memory, in consequence of being unable to obtain from Mr. Vivanti the pencil notes taken at the meeting.

The Chairman then read from the notes taken at the previous meeting, several resolutions, and some matters which had been omitted in the newspaper reports.

Mr. Wilkin then stated, that in addition to these deficiencies he was of opinion that the Chairman's remarks had not been correctly reported.

Mr. Kingdon confirmed the report's general accuracy so far as his remarks were given.

It was then proposed by Mr. Wilkin, and seconded by Mr. Walsh:—

That the minutes of last meeting be amended and reprinted, and that this meeting express its disapproval of the paragraph:—

"Unfortunately, within an hour of this transaction the *Rengo* again recovered strength from the presentation of a memorandum by an official member of the association, personally agreeing to the proposition of a general warehouse, whereby all the good resulting from Mr. Abegg's action was nullified."

This was carried.

The Chairman then read letters from Messrs. N. P. Kingdon and E. de Bavier resigning from the committee, also letter from Messrs. Bavier & Co., withdrawing from the association, and after stating that these were the only communications which had been received, he asked the special committee deputed to treat with the import merchants for their report.

Mr. Wilkin then handed in the proposed agreement which had been received from the import merchants. He stated that some slight change in the wording of some of the articles had been conceded; that powers of attorney from all the silkmen authorising the import dealers to negotiate a settlement had been shewn: but that they had distinctly refused to recognise the *Rengo* in their negotiations for a settlement.

Mr. Walter then proposed and Mr. Molli-son seconded:—

That the terms arranged between import dealers and the special foreign committee be now accepted.\*

This was carried.

Mr. Middleton rose and said he was opposed to making any promise whatever, and as the majority of the meeting seemed to be in favor of the proposition, he would withdraw from the association. He then left the meeting.

Mr. Wilkin, proposed, and Mr. Wolf seconded:—That the chairman be requested to carry out the conditions of the previous resolution, and communicate to the Japanese import merchants, in writing, the acceptance by the meeting of the agreement, attaching

copy thereof and referring to their guarantee annexed.

Carried unanimously.

Mr. Wilkin read form of "Purchase Note" "Sale Note" and "Godown receipt" as follows:—

## FORM OF PURCHASE NOTE.

Bought of..... by the undersigned..... bales or boxes of .....silk @ \$..... per picul upon usual terms, to be equal to the sample agreed upon. Inspection to be completed within ..... days, rainy days, dark days, and Sundays excepted.

Yokohama.....

(Signed) .....

## FORM OF SALE NOTE.

Sold to..... by the undersigned..... bales or boxes of .....silk @ \$..... per picul upon usual terms. To be equal to the sample agreed upon. Inspection to be completed within ..... days, rainy days, dark days, and Sundays excepted.

Yokohama.....

(Signed) .....

## GODOWN RECEIPT.

Received of..... for inspection under purchase contract dated..... bales or boxes of .....silk. Fire insurance is provided on \$..... This receipt is subject to the ordinary conditions of fire insurance policies as regards fire, and to the same exceptions as regards custody.

Yokohama.....

(Signed) .....

Mr. Walsh proposed, and Mr. Wolf seconded:

That they be adopted, and that they be printed as early as possible. Carried.

Mr. Walsh proposed and Mr. Wolf seconded:

That we continue this association for the sole purpose of ensuring that the arrangement which we have now accepted shall be faithfully carried out, and that the same gentlemen who have represented us in the negotiations with the import merchants shall be a special committee charged to see that this is done, and with power to call a meeting at any time.

Carried.

It was then moved by Mr. Wilkin, and seconded by Mr. Walsh.

That this meeting wishes to cordially acknowledge the assistance given by the foreign ministers and especially that of Mr. Kennedy in his able despatch to the minister of foreign affairs.

This was carried.

Mr. Fraser proposed and Mr. Wilkin seconded: That the thanks of the meeting be tendered to the foreign banks for the assistance they have rendered the association."

Carried.

Mr. Walsh proposed, and Mr. Lindsley seconded:—

That the association tenders its best thanks to the gentlemen who have served it as its committee during the last two months, both to the member who remains and to those who have retired, begging them to be assured that their arduous and constant efforts have been appreciated, and be gratefully remembered."

This was also carried.

Mr. Thomas rose to thank the meeting, on

behalf of the other gentlemen and himself, for their resolution just passed, and stated that very little was due him for what he had done during the past two months, but that having inaugurated the combination and, in conjunction with Mr. de Bavier, personally solicited the signatures of the members of the association, he was very pleased to thank them for having remained so true throughout.

This closed the meeting.

\*The following letter contains the terms alluded to:—

Yokohama, 18th. November, 1881.

Gentlemen,—Referring to your communication dated the 14th. inst., and enclosing the terms of agreement you propose for the settlement of the differences existing between the sellers and buyers of silk, together with your guarantee in regard to article No. 1 of that agreement, I have the honor to inform you that the following resolution was passed at a meeting of the members of the silk trade association, held at the chamber of commerce yesterday afternoon:—

"That the terms arranged between the import dealers and the special foreign committee be now accepted."

"The following is a copy of the terms arranged:

1.—If a general warehouse can be conveniently constructed in a convenient place by Japanese merchants, with rules, regulations, and accommodation mutually agreed upon between Japanese dealers and foreign buyers, where buyers and sellers can be satisfied that their rights will be preserved and by which the method for the sale of silk shall be generally improved, we shall approve of it.

2.—Silk shall be delivered like the muster.

3.—Until such arrangements as mentioned in the above two articles, can be made, the silk will be brought into foreigners' godowns, and foreign buyers will give a godown order and guarantee for fire insurance until the inspection is completed.

4.—A written contract shall be signed by both the buyer and seller when business commences, and agreeing upon the price, the time allowed for inspection, and the sellers should be bound to deliver proper quality of silk.

5.—Weight should be just.

6.—In case of dispute it should be agreed to call in an umpire or umpires from both parties.

To which is annexed your guarantee, that if ever a general warehouse for silk, as mentioned in article No. 1 of the agreement, shall be established, it shall not be part of any scheme which shall be a monopoly, and that it shall not be used for the purpose of a monopoly nor be in any way connected with a monopoly.

I have the honor to remain,  
Your obedient servant,

TOM. THOMAS,  
Chairman of the Meeting.

To Messrs. Nakamura Sahei.

" Kimura Kiyemon.  
" Horikoshi Kakujiro.  
" Mira Shiosuke.  
" Sugimura Jinsaburo.  
" Ohama Chinsaburo.  
" Honao Bayemon.  
" Sakuma Jihei.  
" Makikawa Torahai.  
" Kakimura Masakiohi.

Representatives of the Import  
Merchants of Yokohama.

## Correspondence.

## FOREIGN SILK ASSOCIATION.

## I.

To the editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

SIR:—The action of the meeting of the silk association yesterday afternoon at the Chamber of Commerce definitively disposed of a central market as proposed by Messrs. Masuda and Shibusawa through Mr. Thomas Walsh. The opinion of the meeting was unanimous in declining to listen to that proposition, because, independently of the dangerous nature of the project, it emanated from Messrs. Masuda and Shibusawa who are known to be "the head and front" of the whole offending of the Rengo. The other proposition from the import merchants, which is called a proposition for a general warehouse to be conducted satisfactorily both to foreign buyers and Japanese sellers, if unaccompanied by their note of guarantee that it will never be made use of in any way as a monopoly, would be, to all intents and purposes, the Rengo under a different name to which foreign merchants have already declared their hostility.

The agreement of the import merchants that they will guarantee that this proposed general warehouse for silk shall never be made use of in any way as a monopoly, renders the proposition unnecessary to be laid before any association, committee, or individual; it being purely a matter of voluntary agreement requiring no previous consent. The very fact of this guarantee, if the Japanese understand the wording of it as foreigners understand it, promises that if a general warehouse is erected it shall be simply for the convenience and assistance of business in silk between Japanese and foreigners; and that neither foreigners nor Japanese shall be obliged to transact their business in it; that Japanese shall be at liberty to make use of it for their own convenience, or when they please, and can avoid it, also when they please. If, as foreigners understand by the wording, it is going to be a gratuitous act on the part of the constructors of the general warehouses to erect buildings for the convenience of trade, relying upon their making such arrangements and regulations for storage of silk &c. entrusted to their keeping as to ensure success in inducing all people to be willing to conduct their business in it, any opinion now given as to whether foreigners will support it when established would be a work of supererogation, because, if the advantages and conveniences were to be greater in this projected warehouse than the present method of conducting business, it would follow in reason that everybody would go to it for the conduct of his business. There appears to be something hidden at the bottom of this project, and a great deal of casuistry in the way it was brought forward at the meeting. Little discussions, such as whether the words 'in favour of it' should not be changed into the words 'not objected to,' show that there is more fencing about the equivocal meaning of expressions than about the principle involved.

Of course, the gentlemen who brought the proposition forward have taken care to thoroughly convince the import merchants that foreigners will not subscribe to any agreement which may be against the freedom of action of either the buyers or the sellers of silk; and if they have not done so they have misled and

wronged the import merchants who signed the agreement. Any person, who reflects, will understand this. Foreigners have no right to express an encouraging opinion now, whether they consider a general warehouse will be beneficial to its promoters in the future or not.

It is for the promoters to run their own risk and when they have commenced operations to allure business to themselves by economical principles and fair and honest dealing.

Yours faithfully,

N. P. KINGDON.

## II.

To the editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

SIR:—I am responsible for the report in your paper of what passed at the meeting of the 15th instant. It was necessarily incomplete because I could not find the gentleman who acted as secretary and had possession of the records. It was, however, substantially correct so far as it went. I said much more than is reported which, out of delicacy, I then kept back from publication.

However, as my veracity is impugned by Mr. Wilkin and his supporters, who, at the last meeting, denied that I had, at the previous meeting, made use of words from the chair, such as those commencing in your report with:—

Unfortunately, within an hour of this transaction the Rengo again recovered strength from the presentation of a memorandum by an official member of the association, personally agreeing to the proposition of a general warehouse, whereby all the good resulting from Mr. Abegg's action was nullified.

I now give you an unqualified assertion that I DID say those words, or words substantially similar in meaning and conveying the same expression; and that it was understood by my colleagues that I was to use those words in the course of my opening address, because that *unfortunate memo. alluded to in those words, was the cause of the committee's first letter to Mr. Wilkin.*

"There are none so deaf as those who will not hear."

I moreover said in my address that Mr. Wilkin's reply to the committee contained inaccuracies; as for instance, where he denies that the committee disapproved of his going to meet Messrs. Masuda and Shibusawa at the American legation. I said that the committee pointed out to him that they thought it would be undignified on his part, as chairman of the association, to accept the invitation; and that it would also be an act of bad taste, inasmuch as the invitation conveyed in its wording personal insults to his colleagues.

My colleagues even wanted me to say more, but I had no opportunity. They wanted me to say that the commencement of Mr. Wilkin's apparent opposition, or reticence, to his colleagues commenced by the committee objecting to a rough draft of reply to the second letter of the import merchants, which he sent round for their approval. This draft got mercilessly handled by pencil annotations of disapproval, especially with reference to a paragraph which contained a proposal to the effect that foreigners would be willing to give up the keys of their godowns to the Japanese silk merchants during inspection of the latter's silks.

I am, sir, etc.,

N. P. KINGDON.

Yokohama, 19th. November, 1881.

## A CENTRAL SILK WAREHOUSE.

To the editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

SIR:—In the letter from Mr. N. P. Kingdon which you published yesterday that gentleman says, "Foreigners have no right to express an encouraging opinion now, whether they consider a general warehouse will be beneficial to its promoters in the future or not."

Now I have for many years held, and freely expressed the opinion that a central warehouse for silk would be for the advantage of all concerned in the trade, and would tend more than anything else to induce the improvement in the quality of silk which every one declares to be desirable.

In deference to the attitude of the foreign merchants toward proposals on the Japanese side which were put forward in an offensive manner and with objectionable conditions, I have forborne latterly to urge my views on the central warehouse. But I am not aware of having lost my right to do so when I choose, and I shall esteem it a favor if Mr. Kingdon, through your columns, will tell me why he thinks I have lost it. I had certainly no intention, when joining the combination of foreign merchants, to abdicate all opinions of my own, or my natural right to express them, and in any case I do not propose to have opinions prescribed to me even by so high an authority as Mr. Kingdon.

Very respectfully yours,

THOS. WALSH.

November 17th., 1881.

To the editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

DEAR SIR:—At the meeting of the foreign silk association I was glad to notice that at last the majority of merchants have come to the conclusion it would be better to submit to the Japanese silk guild. The proceedings would, however, have been shortened considerably if a proposition had at once been made to request the Japanese import dealers—who so generously came forward as mediators—to ask the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho to change its name into "Central Market," or "General Warehouse," or any other name it chooses, for the resolution comes to about the same thing and, in my opinion, it now behoves the committee to address a letter of apology to the Rengo for all the trouble given by foreigners, and to thank the managers for the change of name given to their association.

I believe all of us have had experience enough of the Japanese—and the gentleman who delivered the long speech at the meeting seems to think so too—to warrant us in placing implicit faith in their promises; and to feel assured that what the dealers in import have promised will be fulfilled to the fullest extent, especially as one or two of the latter are also shareholders in the present Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho.

It is quite natural the Japanese should be offended at our doubts as to their honesty. All cases tried in the Saibansho etc., show plainly enough, in the decisions given, that it is not Japanese but foreigners who are untruthful and try to break contracts or promises.

I hope the import dealers will continue their endeavours and perhaps they may yet be able to do their brethren in arms, the silk dealers, in the eye. "Boycott" them so that they may confine the control of imports as well as of exports to their own hands.

Yours faithfully,

N. N.

Yokohama, Nov. 17th.

## REPLY TO MR. WALSH.

To the editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

SIR:—Mr. Walsh misunderstands my letter. I do not imply that individuals have no right to do as they please, but that foreigners collectively have no right to (or ought not to) encourage Japanese merchants to go to the expense of establishing a general warehouse, unless they are prepared to support it when established.

Yours &c.,

N. P. KINGDON.

## NEWSPAPER COURTESY.

To the editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

SIR:—In a correspondence between yourself and the chairman of the meeting of silk-buyers held on the 17th. instant, you say:—"The usual course has been for the journal provided with the manuscript to forward proof thereof to its contemporaries mentioned by the committee, as was done by us on the 16th. instant to the *Japan Herald*; and had that journal treated us with the courtesy it receives from us, it would have reminded you of the practice usual in such cases."

May I ask whether, in failing to send the minutes of the 15th. instant to the *Japan Mail*, you acted under the instructions of the committee or by your own discretion, and whether, in either case, you "reminded the committee of the practice usual in such cases?"

Your obedient servant,

F. BRINKLEY,

Proprietor "*Japan Mail*."

Yokohama, Nov. 21st., 1881.

[With regard to the minutes of the meeting of 16th. inst., the practice usual in such cases was observed by us in every particular. The proprietor of the *Japan Mail* should have addressed the chairman of the meeting and not this journal. Ed. J.G.]

## JAPANESE DIALECTS.

ISAKU, Kagoshima Ken.

4th. November, 1881.

To the editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

DEAR SIR:—For some weeks past I have been travelling in this ken, and making some inquiries into the dialect of this province, which is said by natives of other parts of Japan to be the most difficult dialect of the entire country. I find, however, that the proper *Nihon-go*, or Japanese language as spoken at Tokio, is very well understood here and is the general language of business and official transactions, the dialect being only a *patois* confined to women and coolies of the lowest class and is made up of a few words that are apparently the remains of some old and perhaps aboriginal tongue, mingled with indistinctly spoken or corruptly pronounced Japanese words; and that all, whether the aboriginal words or the corrupted or badly pronounced Japanese words, are made to conform to proper Japanese idioms and modes of constructing sentences. I have heard similar aboriginal words in use among the fishermen and coolies of Yokohama and Tokio as well as among the people of the lower classes in Nagasaki and the north of Japan, and I should like to see a vocabulary of these remains of some aboriginal language made up, which might furnish the means for some interesting studies into the origin of the Japanese people. Perhaps this old language may have furnished

the etymological basis for the present popular language of the country, which may yet be found to be formed from changes upon these old originals, supplemented largely by words of Chinese and other foreign origin, all made uniform upon the one set of rules or plan of construction. I have not the time or else I should delight in collecting all the words I could find, east, west, north, and south, of this old vocabulary; and I can but hope that some one will ere long be found with leisure and capacity for such a task. It seems strange that no native book can be found in which any record or notice of this old language is to be found, and I feel confident when sufficient research has been made in this direction that we shall then get new light upon the origin both of this people and their now general language. Will it prove to be one in origin with what is called *Yamato go*, or will it be of distinct and separate character and sources? Will the old *jin-dai* manuscripts and inscriptions prove to be in any way connected with or explained by future knowledge of these remains found in the *patois* of the lower classes in the various parts of Japan?

There is here certainly much of real interest affording profitable matter for research to the antiquarian, the ethnologist, and the linguist; and I can but hope that some one who can command the time and the facilities will ere long search out and give to the world these long hidden secrets of past ages in these islands.

Is there not in Japan some worthy imitator of Sir William Jones who will come forward to do this important work for us?

Who shall it be?

Awaiting a response.

I am sir, Yours faithfully,

Q.

To the editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

DEAR SIR:—Not long ago, I wrote to you something about the inquiries I have been making in this region about the remnants of some old or aboriginal language that has for some time puzzled foreigners as well as natives from other parts of the country, found among some classes of the population of the old Satsuma *Han*. As I before hinted I find that this old dialect is not near so general or prevalent as I had been led to suppose.

I was told by natives and foreigners that even native Japanese from other provinces found it necessary to employ interpreters to be able to travel or to do business in this province. But this is not so, for all but a few of the most ignorant women and coolies understand and speak the proper language of all Japan, and all public lecturers, government officials, and public business men use only the general language of the country. By inquiry I have discovered that this old dialect was brought hither by the followers of Yoritomo in their flight from Kamakura, and that the greater part of them finally gravitated to Oshima, the large island just to the south of this, and that in that island the old dialect now has its greatest prevalence and is probably spoken in its greatest purity. But if I am not much mistaken this same old dialect may be found among the coolies and fishermen about Yokohama and Kamakura and all that section, and in somewhat varied forms, perhaps, over large sections and in various parts of the whole Japanese islands. The old province of Nambu in the north has the reputation of being another locality where a hard dialect is spoken, but I found that even coolies and sailors from that province could understand good Tokio colloquial, and I think there is no

part of Japan where any one with a competent knowledge of the language generally spoken in Tokio, may not easily travel and do business without the aid of an interpreter. I should like to know whether the low dialect of Nambu and of Yezo, not the Aino, be not essentially of the same origin with this much vaunted hard dialect, now said to have been brought to Satsuma by the refugees fleeing from Kamakura at the downfall of Yoritomo?

I venture to think that these old dialects of the low classes of different sections of Japan, form a subject worthy the study of all Yamatologists, and I hope some of those who have leisure will take it up, and gather and give to the public such light upon this subject as will give us an opportunity to see how much connection, if any, there may be between these dialects and the modern prevailing language of the country.

I shall take pleasure in giving to the public such information on these *patoisan* tongues as my time and opportunities will enable me to find out, and this may yet even be the road that leads to a discovery of the origin of the Japanese race which has hitherto been only left to conjecture.

Natives of whom I have inquired thus far are ignorant of the existence of any vocabularies or other written or printed remains of these old dialects, but I hope that such may yet be found, and I intend to make search for any such records or manuscripts that may possibly be in existence somewhere.

I remain, Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

Q.

Kajiki, Kagoshima-ken, Nov. 11th., 1881.

## Occasional Notes.

ON the 5th instant the *Japan Daily Mail* published the minutes of what it alleged to be a conference between Messrs. Shibusawa, Masuda, Wilkin, and Walsh, on the present suspension of the silk trade consequent upon Japanese action. The meeting is said to have been held at the United States legation; and was therefore of a private character. On the 7th instant Messrs. Wilkin and Walsh addressed the *Daily Mail* pointing out that before the interview in question commenced, "it was specially agreed and stipulated that any notes of it taken were not for publication until or unless both parties agreed thereto, and that we on our part have not authorized any such publication." In explanation, the editor appended a note expressing regret that any arrangement should have been violated, adding,—"but we cannot see that there was any reason for delay, since we alone are responsible for the report." The *Japan Mail*, a summary for despatch to foreign countries, was issued yesterday, the 8th instant, and on pages 559 and 560 the "minutes of conference" are republished; but without any note to explain that the publication was unauthorized and improper. Nor is this all. The letter of Messrs. Wilkin and Walsh does not appear in the mail issue.

If the meeting was privately held at the United States legation between the gentlemen named, how did it come to pass that a reporter from the *Japan Mail* was permitted to be present, in face of the express stipulation that the proceedings were not for publication? If



a reporter was not present, how can the editor of the *Japan Mail* be "alone responsible for the report?" The question that demands an answer is this. Who took notes of the proceedings and, in violation of the confidence of at least two of the gentlemen present, gave a copy to the *Japan Mail* for publication? That person, and not the editor of the *Japan Mail* is responsible for the gross breach of faith.

In view of the attitude assumed by the subsidized organ of the department of foreign affairs in connection with the silk combination from its inception, these questions are of particular public interest. Perhaps as the exponent of Japanese opinions, and the disseminator by means of English translations of the libels of the Japanese press upon foreign merchants and their commercial principles, the *Mail* may be considered entitled to all information, in order that the journal may be eventually regarded as the organ of the native and foreign community together. Foreigners must, however, remember that although they may properly disavow all connection with surreptitious publications, as has been done in the matter of the conference at the United States legation, their disclaimer will be confined to Yokohama alone, while the publication complained of will be sent abroad without their disclaimer, or even a note of explanation why it is omitted.

In journalism, as in every other profession, there is a code of honour from which no deviation is permissible; whether the editor of the *Japan Mail* has followed the unwritten principles or not the public may judge; and regulate their intimacy with and confidence in the *Japan Mail*, daily, weekly, and mail series, in accordance with their decision. Public opinion at the present time is expressed in no qualified terms concerning the action of the *Mail* in this improper publication; and when it is known that republication has been made for foreign information without the disclaimer, the irritation will not be lessened.

Who, we may ask, furnished the *Japan Mail* with the secret minutes of a private meeting? Is the distinguished author of letters to *The Times* in any way compromised in this matter. His scrupulosity and fairness are well known and appreciated; but his discretion may sometimes be open to question.

Of late we have avoided reference to the attitudes of the opposing parties in the silk war inaugurated by a few of the most powerful of the Japanese monopolists, but the following paragraph from the *Akebono Shinbun* is too important and interesting to be passed over. Though not so blind a partisan as the *Hochi*, the *Choya* has been sufficiently partial to the side of the combination to lead to the conclusion that if the substance of the communication to which it refers were not substantially true, it would never have received currency in the pages of that journal.

In a leading article, the *Akebono* expresses great regret at the situation of the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho, as disclosed in a communication from Yokohama to this effect. "There is a *urikomi-doiya* named Shibusawa Yosaburo (Uyesawaya) a member of the Niadzukarisho. He was reported as offering to sell to foreign merchants some four hundred bales of silk, purchased from or consigned by a silk owner in Oshiu, in wilful violation of the rules of the guild which imposes a fine for such violation; it is further reported that Mr. Shibusawa Yosaburo is not alone in such action, there being many willing and anxious to assist his designs. Informed of

"this matter, Messrs. Arika and Takenouchi called upon Mr. Shibusawa on the 6th inst., and, as representatives of the silk producers, attempted to dissuade him from the further prosecution of his design; pointing out the vital importance to the silk trade of the principle involved. But Mr. Shibusawa, actuated by a selfish desire to acquire the profit exposed before his eyes, was not to be gained over; and the deputation failed to move him from his position. Still, assured that a matter of such importance was not to be lightly abandoned, the two representatives called to consult with the Fuso Shokwai on the question; but to their surprise that company seemed also to have changed their opinions, and the interview had no satisfactory result. At present, with the exception of five promoters, all members of the Niadzukarisho are resolved upon its destruction; and unless something supervenes its dissolution is assured. The situation of the Niadzukarisho is comparable to that of the flame of a candle before a coming breeze."

This epistle suggests the question whether it is worth while to proceed with the distasteful, and at present impracticable, project of a central market, for the benefit of the "five promoters" of an association which has made it its chief business to libel foreigners; and has succeeded in doing more direct harm to trade than any other association ever established in this land of monopolists.

THE letter of apology from the Doshin Kwaisha to the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho, of which the *Japan Mail* in all its editions made so much of in its articles on the silk combination and its prospects, has been withdrawn. The letter in question was never issued with the sanction of the Doshin Kwaisha: it was framed by three banks, with a threat conveyed to the assistant manager that if he did not sign it his company would be subjected to financial pressure. The chief manager, at the request of the company, immediately visited Yokohama; and demanded and obtained restitution of the document together with satisfactory redress.

THE *Mai Nichi Shinbun* says a company styled the Funkeiosha, consisting of three hundred *shizoku* has been formed at Takaigori in Shinano with the object of purchasing the property of the Kaitakushi, if the government will sanction the sale.

THE *Akebono Shinbun* says that the sum of money paid by the finance department, out of the reserve fund, for the building of the new imperial palace, up to the end of last month amounted to upwards of 1,650,000 yen.

THE rainfall of Saturday (5th. inst.) was the heaviest recorded here or in the immediate neighbourhood since September 1878. From 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., when the steady downpour had fallen off to a thin drizzle, a shade over five inches was gauged, the total for the twenty-four hours ending 7 a.m. on the 6th., being 5.18 inches. The mean fall during the ten hours of Saturday was 0.59 inch per hour, the total being nearly equivalent to one-seventh of the mean annual rainfall in England.

Although between two and three and one-half inches of rain are not unfrequently gauged in twenty-four hours, anything above the last named is rare. On the 15th. September 1878 6.115 inches were registered, thirteen days, continuous rain gauging 12.97 inches,

It is to some extent gratifying to find H.B.M. acting consul authorizing the publication of the reversal of the decision of the naval court of inquiry which suspended the certificate of the master of the *Ells Beatrice*. Tardy reparation is better than none at all; but it is impossible to avoid the reflection that had it not been for the strictures of the press no notice would have been given here that the certificate of Captain Thompson had been returned forthwith because, "in the opinion of the Board of Trade, the sentence was unusually severe."

The record of the court, it appears, was forwarded by the English mail due in London May 9th. The appeal, with a copy of the record, was forwarded by the *Oceanic* April 2nd., the mails by which vessel were delivered in London May 6th. In either case, little more than a week elapsed before the certificate was returned; and the only cause for regret is that the result of the appeal, whether consequent upon the neglect of the Board of Trade or the indifference of the acting consul, was not officially published in the port where the court was held; and where it was well known considerable feeling prevailed concerning the severity of the decision.

THE following item of news is taken from the *Mai Nichi Shinbun*:—His Imperial Highness Prince Arisugawa is seriously ill, being confined to his bed and under medical attendance.

THE *Hochi Shinbun* says that Mr. Mayeta has been appointed first secretary of the agricultural and commercial department and acting secretary of the finance department. Our contemporary further states that Mr. Mayeta will proceed to Europe and America on the 13th. inst.

A MAN named Ito has been arrested at Fukuoka for forging kinsatsu. His counterfeit notes are said to be exact imitations of the genuine article, although he could not summon a sufficient amount of courage to use them.

THE Nippon Tetsudo Kwaisha, according to the *Choya Shinbun*, have been granted a special charter by the government in accordance with their petition.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* announces that His Imperial Majesty the Mikado has proceeded to Fukiage Park to witness the races.

WE learn from the *Mai Nichi Shinbun* that the following appointments have been notified, which take effect from yesterday the 8th. inst.:—Mr. Nomura Yasushi, governor of Kanagawa-ken, to be postmaster-general; and Mr. Oki, secretary of the foreign office, has been promoted to the post vacated by the first named official.

THE same paper says the Korean ambassador was to visit the imperial palace and have an audience with His Majesty the Mikado to-day (9th. inst.)

WE thankfully acknowledge the receipt from the publishers of the current number of the *Chrysanthemum*. The contents are of the usual character and quite up to the average. Those who contemplate taking a journey into the interior of the country will read with pleasure and profit Mr. J. M. Dixon's interesting, though brief, paper on "Travelling in Yesso." "Burial Ceremonies of the Chinese," and "Philosophy of Heaven and Earth in a Nut-shell" are two translations from Japanese

works which will be appreciated by students of that class of literature. Mr. W. Denning continues his useful vocabulary of Aino words and Mr. C. S. Eby concludes his manual for transliterating Japanese. Mr. Waddell contributes a ninth instalment of his dissertations on the rendering into Japanese of some theological and psychological terms which, with some judicious padding completes the number. We must not however forget to mention a musical supplement, which forms a somewhat novel feature, entitled *Dies Irae*, words by Rev. N. Brown and music by E.C.H. The poetry is good and the harmonies rich and full, some of the chords being very fine. The printing or engraving is remarkably clear. We know not whether it is the work of native tradesmen, but it reflects great credit on whoever executed it, be he or they whom they may.

The publishers have issued their programme for 1882 and it is one which, if carried out, ought to have the effect of largely increasing the circulation of the magazine. Instead of 36, there are to be at least 48 pages per month, and the coming volume is to include a vocabulary of theological, ecclesiastical, and other terms of over one thousand words, which is now being prepared by a select committee; there is to be also a constant variety of philological, historical, antiquarian, geographical, critical and other matter, along with reviews of books relating to the far east. A large addition to the more popular element in the way of sketches of travel, scenes, events, &c. &c. including medical notes and hints.

We wish this excellent little periodical renewed success and prosperity in future, and heartily reciprocate the hope expressed by its conductors that it will "find appreciative readers in every English speaking home in this country, and also that it will help to satisfy the curiosity of the outside world with regard to affairs in Japan, both ancient and modern."

THE International Congress of Orientalists is to be held this year at Berlin. Two Buddhist priests from Japan are among the guests. Not the least interesting of the results of modern changes in Japan is the manner in which some of the leading Buddhist sects have met the attempts to spread Christianity in the country. The *Montoshu*, especially, several years ago despatched some of their priests to Europe to study the religions of Europe, and some visitors to the Honguan temple at Kioto will remember Mr. Akamatsu, one of the students in question. Missionaries have also been sent to Korea, Shanghai, and, perhaps, other parts of China. This sect has always been noted for the wealth, intelligence and absence of bigotry of its leaders.

THE *Choya Shinbun* says that Messrs. Yosuda, Sudzuki, Kanai, and Orita, secretaries of the Kaitakushi have preferred charges of defamation against the *Hechi*, *Koko*, and *Mai Nichi Shinbun*.

THE same paper states that Messrs. Kurihara and Miyagi, members of the Hogakkwan (a scientific society) at Mito, in Ibaraki-ken, have been delivering a course of political lectures in that province, and have canvassed the people to join the Jyoto (Liberal party) with much success. What their object may be is not known, but they suddenly resolved on sending the following strange notice to the local government, and accordingly did so on the 8th. inst. The latter returned it for endorsement by the district magistrates, which being done, they again received it, and promised to give further reply in due course:—

We, the undersigned, having hitherto lived under the protection of the Japanese government, enjoyed the protection of its laws, and the rights and privileges of citizenship, and having discharged the duties required of us, are now firmly convinced of certain facts (?), and do not desire to live any longer under such government, or to be amenable to such laws, or to enjoy any of its rights or privileges, but have resolved to set aside jurisdiction and to claim our independence.

We therefore request you to acknowledge our action.

(Signed) KURIHARA KWANSUKE.

" MIYAGI MOHEI.

Free People on earth

To H. E. SANJO SANETOMI,

*Daijo Daijin.*

November 8th., 1881.

THE several reports current regarding the resumption of silk business must be modified by the fact that future transactions on the old basis will only be conducted with those firms willing to sign an agreement, which is called by the Japanese "Mr. Wilkin's proposal," to the effect that a central market will be acceptable if properly carried out. Silk buyers who made purchases yesterday were asked this morning to sign such an agreement, to which it is said Mr. Wilkin's signature has already been attached. This latter report can scarcely be credited; and none will believe that the energetic chairman of the foreign association of silk merchants who, at a meeting held on October 13th last, said:—"Some of the native import merchants have, I may mention, volunteered their services to endeavour to mediate; to suggest, as they say, a compromise. They ask whether, supposing the guild would be willing, regardless of expense, to provide suitable godown accommodation in the foreign settlement as a temporary measure, foreigners would consent to buy through the guild. It is needless to remark that this means a compromise in which we yield nearly everything, and they only the minor point of one of the inconveniences;"—can so soon veer round and act in direct opposition to his expressed convictions. In any case, however, it will be gratifying to learn that all silk buyers hold an opinion on this point entirely opposed to that of Mr. Wilkin; and refuse, one and all, to lend themselves to a deception, or to induce the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho to abandon their position, unwise and mistaken as it may be on a false pretence; for it is the dispassionate opinion of those best acquainted with the silk trade that any proposition which involves the formation of a central market cannot possibly be carried out; and that any promise to that effect is delusive and unjustifiable, the inevitable breach of which will seriously injure the good faith of those who have hitherto acted upon sound principles and *optimis fide*.

It is most advisable that Japanese merchants should thoroughly understand the feeling of foreigners in this matter; and be assured that the individual action of a member unsupported by his colleagues, cannot, in any way, influence the attitude assumed by the foreign silk association.

THE *Japan Mail*, which has throughout the complications in the silk trade acted as the mouthpiece of, and in the interest of the monopolists in general, affecting to be disappointed at the certainty of the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho's ultimate victory, and repeatedly offering its sympathy to foreign merchants

while trying by every means in its power to strengthen the hands of their opponents by assertions of the influence and inflexible resolve of the producers in the interior never to give way, has excelled its past performances in its issue of the 12th instant, wherein it congratulates Mr. Wilkin upon his action and deprecates the "intemperate and unjustifiable criticism by a small section of our community, whose object apparently is to ensure the utmost permanency for the bitter umbrage that has been created throughout Japan by the attitude of the foreign merchants." The italics are ours. It would appear that the foreign merchants' resolution not to carry on business under conditions rudely and improperly imposed on them by a few men who had no other object in view than their personal advantage, has created bitter umbrage throughout Japan. So not only are foreign merchants to be insulted by the Rengo in the first instance, but they are to be maligned by the *Japan Mail* as the cause of the breach which most undoubtedly has arisen in our commercial relations with this people. This is too much to endure.

There are two inaccuracies in the *Mail's* paragraph which we will forthwith correct. Mr. Wilkin's action has not been criticised adversely by a *small* section of the community. There are probably not more than half a dozen men of business in the settlement who do not disapprove the conduct of this gentleman who, while retaining his position as chairman of the committee of the foreign silk association which had rejected the central market proposition, and who was the most ardent supporter of the opposition to the Rengo in whom the rest of the association placed implicit confidence, thought proper to sign or make a promise which he must have been aware his colleagues would reject, which can not be carried out, and which, in a manner, betrayed the interests confided to his charge if it be true, as alleged, a central market is as objectionable in every respect as the present attempt at centralization by the Rengo. In face of these facts how can the *Mail* justify its qualification of *small*, as applied to that section of the community which refuses to identify itself with Mr. Wilkin's action?

The second correction is of the point made by the *Mail* to the effect that a central market is a "concession infinitesimally small." Such a concession in the present state of the silk trade would be for foreign merchants to surrender at discretion; and to abandon unconditionally all the reasonable rights they claim the power to exercise in order to benefit the five or six remaining members of the Rengo.

THAT Mr. Wilkin is a deservedly esteemed member of the community none will deny; nor are we prepared to criticise, unfavourably or otherwise, his action in the matter of the silk dispute, preferring to leave that question for those interested to decide upon: but surely a more inopportune moment could not have been chosen by the *Mail* to suggest a public testimonial to Mr. Wilkin; and we distinctly repudiate the assertion that the *Mail's* suggestion is "the echo of an idea already universal." The opposite is the case; but we are unwilling the suggestion should be disregarded entirely and venture, therefore, to commend it to the generosity of the five remaining members of the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho and the other monopolists who have derived the most benefit from the public services recently rendered. If one deserves a testimonial so does the other. Let a service of plate, paid for

out of the funds of the Rengo, be presented to the *Japan Mail* in grateful recognition of its services to the good cause of resistance to hateful foreign aggression.

THE *Mai Nichi Shinbun* says fifteen clerks of the Chosa-kioku in the finance department are reported to have sent in their "resignations" on the 11th. instant.

THE *Chingai Bukka Shimpō* states that the price of national bonds has risen extraordinarily, quotations on the 11th. instant being 77 yen for 100 yen nominal, which is an excess of 15 yen above the rates quoted in the corresponding week of last year. But what is the cause of the increase, since money is scarce in the market and interest exceedingly high, so much so, that bonds ought to fall rather than rise in price? Some consider it to be only a matter of demand and supply, the bonds being in great request on account of the proposed establishment of a grand Buddhistic charity which is intended to be a means of gaining over the people and preventing the spread of Christianity. Others attribute it either to the approaching refund of the bonds which will be commenced early next year or to some other contemplated speculation.

To-day (14th. inst.) prices have fallen a little in consequence of many persons having sold out.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. George French, chief justice of H.B.M. Supreme Court for China and Japan, which took place at Kobe at half past four yesterday morning (18th. inst.)

Mr. French left Shanghai in the early part of May with the intention of recruiting his health in Kobe, prior to a more effective change at home. The change seemed at first decidedly beneficial, but his powers slowly failed and for the last few months little if any hopes were entertained of his recovery.

Mr. French was highly esteemed in Shanghai where, in the exercise of his judicial functions, he had given every satisfaction, while in private life he had made many friends.

The vacancy thus created will probably lead to the appointment of Mr. Hannen to the court for Japan.

A RUMOUR has been afloat during the day (14th. inst.) and repeated in the native papers, to the effect that many of the senior members of the staff of the general post office have followed the example of their late esteemed chief and tendered their resignations. So far as we have been able to learn there is some truth in the report, though not to the extent that rumour has it. In the course of a day or two no doubt the public will know what interruptions are due to the feeling which is not unknown in Japan of devotion to a chief for whom a sincere personal regard is felt.

In pursuance of a circular notice previously issued, a meeting of the members of the Bluff Fire Insurance Company was held at the Gaiety Theatre on the afternoon of Thursday the 10th instant. About thirty-nine members were present in person or were represented by proxy.

Mr. Arthur Brent was voted to the chair, and having explained the special object of the meeting announced that 510 shares had been applied for unconditionally, while about 800 more were promised under certain conditions, one of which was that the paid up capital should be increased to \$20,000 instead of \$10,000.

It was then proposed and seconded:—

That the capital paid up be \$20 per share; \$5, on application, \$5 on allotment, \$5 on April 1st. 1892, and \$5 on Oct. 1st. 1892.

The resolution was carried by a large majority, two members representing ten shares alone dissenting; the chairman explained that those dissatisfied with the result would, of course, be at liberty to withdraw.

The special business for which the meeting had been convened being thus concluded, the chairman asked those present to discuss any matters of interest, or to make any suggestions. The sense of the meeting was then taken with regard to amount of subscribed capital which would justify the commencement of business. It was then proposed and seconded:—

That the company be formed and commence business so soon as seventy-five per cent. of the nominal capital is subscribed.

Some discussion followed, but eventually the resolution was accepted without a dissentient; one gentleman, representing fifteen shares, abstaining from voting on this and all previous and subsequent motions.

The chairman then explained that several shares had been applied for by residents in Kobe, who had expressed their wish that the company should do business in that settlement, and those present were invited to express their views on the subject. General questions were put in regard to the class of risks to be taken in Kobe &c., various opinions were ventilated in the course of a discussion which ensued, and eventually it was proposed and seconded:—

That the Directors, when satisfied of the character of the risks likely to be offered, be authorized to extend the Company's business to Kobe, subject to the approval of the first general meeting of shareholders.

Upon an individual canvas the resolution was accepted without a dissentient voice.

At the opening of the meeting one of the gentlemen present said that in view of the Company being formed rather to save money than to make it, it would be desirable to adhere to the mutual principle and limit the business to shareholders' property. After some discussion it was agreed to refer the question to the first general meeting.

A vote of thanks to Mr. Hegt for the use of the theatre and to the chairman closed the proceedings.

CAPTAIN A. F. Colson, of the American schooner *Alexandra*, reports speaking with the American otter schooner *Sea Lion* on the 28th. October last, near the Kuriles. The master of the *Sea Lion* said that on the 24th. October he saw a schooner with a signal of distress flying. He immediately bore away for the vessel, and on coming alongside found it was the otter schooner *Diana*, Capt. Petersen, from Yokohama. The cause of the signal was soon explained. It appears from Capt. Petersen's account, that the *Diana* had that morning put into Copper (Mednie) island, near the coast of Kamchatka, in the Behring Sea (though with what object does not appear, but it is generally supposed the schooner was out of water and put in for a fresh supply). Three boats were manned and pulled for the shore. Overhanging the beach at the spot it was proposed to land at was a perpendicular cliff, some three hundred feet high. As the first boat touched the sand the boatswain, a Japanese, jumped out, and had scarcely set foot on *terra firma* when a shot fired from the top of the cliff pierced his breast and he fell dead. This appears to have been the signal for a general attack, as a brisk fire from about twenty-five rifles was immediately opened on the three boats from the top

of the cliff. Another Japanese was shot and fell out of the boat into the water; two more were killed and ten wounded. Of the foreigners, a hunter, Smith, received six balls in his right thigh, one in his left leg and one in his right shoulder. Another hunter, known as Fred, received two balls, one breaking an arm. The men in the boats are said to have been unarmed and pulled back to the vessel as quickly as possible, the natives firing at them until after they got on board the schooner. One rifle bullet struck the deck of the vessel and sent some splinters flying. Captain Petersen found, on mustering his crew, that only five Japanese out of nineteen were able to work, the others being more or less badly wounded. He hoisted a signal of distress, which, as before stated, was observed by the *Sea Lion*; and with the assistance of the crew of the latter he got up anchor and sailed away for Petropavlovsk in order to obtain medical assistance. It was believed that Smith would not live to reach that port.

THE *Hochi Shinbun* has the following items:—An imperial garden party will take place to-morrow (16th. inst.) Invitations have been issued to the princes, *daijin*, *sangi*, various officials, and members of the *corps diplomatique*.

MR. MINAMI, first secretary of the agricultural and commercial department, has been appointed superintendent of the board of trade.

THE *Mai Nichi Shinbun* says that Mr. Yoshii, vice minister of the public works department, has been appointed president, and Mr. Hida, of the 15th. national bank vice-president of the Nippon Tetsudo Kwaisha.

THE same paper remarks that Their Excellencies Sanjo, and Iwakura and other high officials have organized an association styled the Hoshokwai with a subscribed capital of 2,000,000 yen. The interest accruing from this sum is to be devoted to the keeping in proper repair of ancient temples and shrines.

THE *Choya Shinbun* says a strict investigation is still being carried on of every transaction with the M. B. Co. conducted by Mr. Okuma, late finance minister, during his tenure of that appointment.

THE *Mai Nichi Shinbun* to-day (15th. inst.) contains the first part of a series of complaints urged against the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho by the Kairio Kwaisha, an association of producers in Shinshiu; and a general meeting of the first-named was held on the 10th instant to discuss a suitable answer.

The following is an epitome of the several complaints:—

'We, silk producers, believing in the first instance that the establishment of the Rengo was intended to bring about reform in the absurd customs heretofore prevailing in the conduct of silk sales to the great loss of producers; and also for the recovery of the commercial rights of Japan and putting an end to the cunning designs of foreigners, felt much sympathy with the cause, and looked forward with hope to the opening of the institution. At its commencement, however, foreign merchants unanimously opposed the restrictions sought to be imposed on them; and declined to have any transactions whatsoever with the Rengo. This circumstance caused us to reflect deeply upon the statements of both parties, and to consider the actual interests of those concerned in the silk trade; and we discovered

that between the Rengo's first professions and its subsequent actions there were material differences. The first object was the recovery of our commercial rights, reform of objectionable usages and the benefit of silk producers generally; but, owing to the absence of due and proper precautions in the beginning, the Rengo has involved us in difficulties with foreigners and injured us very much.

'Our first complaint is this:—The Rengo borrowed the sum of one million yen from some few banks; and further sums from other sources; all bearing *six per cent.* annual interest. Advances were then made to producers at *eighteen per cent.* When the difficulty attained its height, this rate was reduced to *fifteen per cent.* What has been done with the difference [between the interest paid by the Rengo, and that recovered from the producer who was to be benefited]? It may be said the Rengo was established to promote its own private gain. This is one cause of our dissatisfaction with it.

'Again, since the establishment of the Rengo, silk producers have been compelled to pay three-fold fees:—one to the *wrikomidoiya*, another to the branch of the Rengo in the producing districts, and a third to the [chief office of the] Rengo; so that two extra fees have been levied by the Rengo. While the difficulty lasts the Rengo has consented to waive these fees; but when the difficulty is settled these fees will be revived. This is another cause of dissatisfaction.

'Since the establishment of the Rengo, business has been suspended; and about 14,000 bales of silk are stored in its warehouses. That is to say, silk of the value of about 5,000,000 yen, has lost its market. Of this quantity, seven-tenths bear fifteen per cent. interest [payable to the Rengo], and the remaining three-tenths represent capital locked up and useless to the producers to their great loss. This is the third complaint.'

Beyond the injuries mentioned we have no complaints to make because you advocate our commercial rights, and we sympathize with you and feel it to be our duty to think such injuries only trifles as compared with the great object aimed at. But there is one thing which will cause a trouble and loss to us silk producers, that is, silk over 14,000 bales in amount lies accumulated at Yokohama; and it will certainly be sold by auction by silk owners when the present difficulty is compromised, and then not only will the sale be made at a lower price than otherwise, for example, thirty or forty dollars lower, but the price of specie will be lowered by 14 or 15 sen. Silk producers at large, therefore, must endure a great loss amounting to nearly 1,400,000 or 1,500,000 yen by these transactions and the fall of specie in price. In this case the establishment of the Niadzukarisho is nominally to secure the right of trade to us and amend existing abuses hitherto prevailing to benefit the common interest of silk producers, but, in fact, the great loss above referred to being the result, we can reasonably say that your establishment produces unspeakable mischief to us; while your establishment absorbs the difference obtained by lending at high interest the capital borrowed at six per cent.

However, if there is a hope of your victory over the foreign association, we will persist in the present undertaking notwithstanding the loss; but considering the present actual circumstances of your institution and that your capital is limited we strongly believe that with this limited fund there

is no hope of eventually gaining a victory in this great struggle. You may persist in your undertaking. You say that you have a capital of over one million yen, and if the struggle is kept up with this large capital, the foreign association must be dissolved and ask, on their part, for a compromise; and that all silk at Yokohama will be directly exported to foreign countries and not sold to foreigners at the settlement. This is what you say of your situation. But we cannot believe this. You may have one million yen, but silk accumulated is over 10,000 bales, and, moreover, the year being near the end, if the demand for money is pressing, this struggle can not be kept on. You say, the foreign association will be dissolved and ask a compromise, but if they see your association is in danger of being broken up, their combination will certainly become stronger and patiently await the dissolution of our combination. Again, it is not easy work to directly export all silk at Yokohama, because our merchants have not sufficient experience of foreign markets and consequently they cannot sell at proper prices. Therefore we do not want all our goods to be exported through your Ni Adzukurisho. We will here give our opinions in reference to the advantage and disadvantage of direct exportation to foreign markets. If silk of a quality desired be exported or if silk of a proper quantity be exported to a place where it is scarce, direct exportation would no doubt be profitable, but to export all the silk now at Yokohama is an impossible task. This is so clear a fact that the public well know it. Therefore it is not rude for us to add that what you say is nothing but a pretext to bind all producers together during the difficulty.

This is the reason why we should decidedly declare after long and careful consideration of the case that such a scheme is hopeless. You may say that we forget our duty, want patience, and are treacherous; and if you are so courageous as to say so you must be convinced of your being right, and if so, we request you to give your assurance with respect to the following matters.

1.—Interest on advances should be lowered to six per cent on and after the 10th. instant.

2.—Advances made in paper money should be repaid in specie at to-day's price (note. Advances to be made on silk to arrive from producing districts should be accounted for in specie at the price of the day of its arrival.)

3.—If you can not accept these terms you should give an assurance that you will cover a loss caused by fall in price of specie when you commence business.

4.—You should be responsible for losses caused by direct trade (note. This provision is not applicable to exportation made in accordance with the desire of producers, and of the quality they approve of).

If you accept the above four particulars of our demand, we will persist in supporting your principle, but if you can not do so, we have no further reliance on men who have undertaken a thing persisted in only when they have an object to achieve; but as we now believe you can not succeed in your object, we refuse to wait for a time when we may be in a critical situation, and we intend to abandon your principle and form a new association to transact our own business as we like, and thus secure our proper commercial right. We believe that you have no reason to hold us to have broken the rules. Of course, we state so much not because we are anxious about our present

interests, but from our being certain of your failure in your present situation. If you fail, a great multitude of silk producers will be driven bankrupt, production will decline so that the most profitable natural production of the country will fall off. Nor is this all. Ten million yen are stopped from circulation and cause great confusion in the political economy of the country. Is this not painful?

We therefore demand the above four concessions and request that your institution will clearly understand our demand and soon give an answer whether you accept or not.

As THERE appears to be an uneasy feeling prevalent in Yokohama regarding certain rumours of a conflict between a Russian armed vessel and some of the other schooners in the north, we may state that we have instituted inquiries and have every reason to believe the rumours have no foundation, they having most likely originated in the report of the affray between the crew of the *Diana* and natives of Copper Island. The *Otsego* reports the following vessels to be still hunting, and last seen by her on the dates attached to their several names.

Name.	Flag.	Captain.	When last seen.	Number of Other Vessels.	Number of Sail Mates.
Schr. "Adela"	Russian	Goulder	Nov. 1	46	880
" " Mary C. Bohm "	German	Beade	Oct. 30	24	—
" " Helena "	Danish	E. Ewalt	July 1	15	—
" " Oheida "	American	F. Wilson	Aug. 25	4	—
" " Diana "	do.	C. Petersen	Sep. 18	24	—
" " Elizabeth Kiwa "	Russian	J. Jansen	Nov. 1	46	880
" " Lottie "	Dutch	Hans	Nov. 6	4	—

We learn from trustworthy sources in the interior, that the action of the Rengo has given intense dissatisfaction; and led to investigations which have given rise to conclusions of which the complaints embodied in the foregoing letter are reflections. What if the Japanese people should suddenly find out that the real causes of their being deprived of "commercial rights" are the personal interests of the monopolists, whose action is calculated to injure every person connected with the silk trade, except the brokers? Once the real motives of the Rengo are disclosed, it will simply die away and no more will be heard of it.

It is currently reported that the Chinese minister will shortly return to his country. The cause of his sudden recall is not known though several contradictory rumours are afloat.

COUNTERFEIT yen and half yen notes are said to be very plentiful and are daily detected. Who the clever forgers are it is impossible to say, but the *Mai Nichi Shinbun* delicately hints that the imitations are much too perfect to be the work of Japanese, and warns one and all that the government are keeping their eyes open.

SEVERAL deposits of gold have recently been discovered at Kurokura-mura, and Messrs. Fukano and Takasaki have applied to the government for a license to work a mine.

PUNCTUALLY at 2 p.m. on the 18th. inst., Mr. Hegt was present at the Gaiety Theatre with the whole of his fire engines, hose, &c. Between twenty and thirty gentlemen were in attendance, several of whom, if we mistake not were members of the Fire Brigade.

After some desultory conversation between



Messrs. Hegt, Grant, Abbott & Co., on the relative merits, of hand and fire engines the first named gentleman proceeded with a practical illustration of the powers of his engines. Two of them were taken to the creek—one being placed in the water—another was stationed near Foote's Hotel and two more close to the vacant space between Nos. 85 and 86. Within eight minutes and a half the operations were completed and two good streams of water 70 feet high brought to bear on the houses above named. As far as promptitude and despatch are concerned Mr. Hegt has certainly proved his case, and if he can ensure getting to the scene of a fire as speedily as he can bring his little engines into play there is not the slightest doubt that the more we have of them the better it will be for the settlement.

An exhibition of the capabilities of the steam fire engine was promised by some of the members of the brigade who were present, which they arranged shall take place shortly; an opportunity will thereby be afforded of judging of the relative merits of the two kinds of engines.

Mr. KINERON's letter in another column gives a point blank denial to the amendment introduced of the report of proceedings at the meeting of the foreign silk association, on the 15th instant. That gentleman asserts, with unmistakable emphasis, that he not only made use of the words now challenged, but of others not reported. We have found also abundant evidence in corroboration of the report as published.

The words then used should, if objected to by the meeting, have been disapproved on the spot for it is clearly unreasonable that a minority meeting held on the 17th. should be competent to discuss and disapprove of expressions made use of by the chairman in his opening speech at a majority meeting of the 15th. It was then too late; and though the meeting might perhaps demand explanations it obviously had no power to accept a proposition disapproving of a plain statement of fact accepted at a previous meeting.

Much of the trouble which has arisen in the publication of these reports, is due to the absence of a qualified reporter. The meetings have been semi-private, and only such portion of the proceedings made public as the chairman approved. The wisdom of this course is open to doubt. A competent reporter would have performed his work with some degree of accuracy; and matters not suitable for publication could have been pointed out at the meeting and omitted from the report. On every occasion of the publication of minutes furnished to us by members, complaints have been heard of their imperfect and partial character; and we venture strongly to recommend the committee either to admit reporters for the press, or in future to keep their proceedings entirely private.

FIREs are becoming rather too frequent. About 9.15 p.m. last night (8th) the dread alarm was once more heard when there was a general rush for the scene of the conflagration, which turned out to be Matsukage-cho in the Japanese town. The outbreak occurred in a native godown belonging to a tea-chest maker which was almost totally destroyed. Thanks to prompt assistance, the flames were extinguished in about half an hour without any further damage being sustained. The pecuniary loss is therefore comparatively trifling.

THE *Choya Shinbun* says a rumour prevails in the foreign settlement of Yokohama to the effect that the British government seem to have consented to the treaty revision proposed by the Japanese government; it is also rumoured there that a new foreign loan which has been long talked of, will be raised next year and a central bank established at the same time.

To both these rumours we are in a position to give unqualified denial—Ed. J. G.

THE *Hochi Shinbun* says that His Imperial Highness, Prince Arisugawa who has been ill for some time has quite recovered. His Highness attended the cabinet yesterday (18th inst.) for the first time since his restoration to health.

THE same paper says that the iron rails ordered from England for the construction of the Tokio and Takasaki railway arrived at Yokohama on the 15th. instant, and will be shortly laid down.

ACCORDING to the *Akebono Shinbun* there appears to have been some misunderstanding as to who are the projectors of the Soko Kwaisha, the names of Mr. Asafuki and a few others having been included in error. The complete list stands thus:—Messrs. Ono, Kimura, Nakamura, Ohama, Osada, Sugimura, Otani, Horigoshi, Satsuma, Mayekawa and Miura. Permission to establish the company was granted on the 4th., and business was commenced on the 9th. inst.

THE *Choya Shinbun* says the railway between Otsu and Tsuguru is so far completed that the opening ceremonies have been fixed for the 1st. January next, traffic to commence on the following day.

THE Korean ambassador, says the *Mai Nichi Shinbun*, had an interview with, and presented his credentials to, His Imperial Majesty the Mikado yesterday, the 9th. inst. Dr. Brouns, professor of geology, mineralogy and palæontology in the mombu sho had an audience at the same time.

THE following is the customs return for the month of September last:—

Exports .....	Yen 2,689,866.680
Imports .....	„ 2,763,426.037

Excess of imports .....	„ 73,569.357
Export of specie and bullion ..	„ 767,797.912
Import „ „ „	„ 17,580.900

It is said that history repeats itself. Many of us in Japan are familiar with the fact that when His Majesty is about to proceed on a journey to any portion of his dominions the roads are patched up for the occasion, and, after the imperial passage, are allowed to return to their original impassable or semi-impassable condition. Some little has been done in making new or improved roads, especially over some of the passes, but as a rule these means of communication are wholly neglected, except the Mikado pays the district a visit. In China, a similar state of things existed more than two thousand years ago. Then, as now in Japan, roads were improved on the occasion of an imperial progress. We extract the passage on this subject in full from Mr. Boulger's recent history of China. He is writing of Hoang-ti, the first emperor of the Tsin dynasty, who reigned towards the end of the third century before our era.

“During the emperor's journeys throughout his dominions the main features of the country

and the condition of the people came under his eye. Recognising that one of the best ways to increase the prosperity of the people was to improve the means of communication between one part of the empire and another, the emperor gave orders that high-roads should be laid down in all directions. His attention was the more drawn to the matter because in the east it is the custom when a great man visits a district to repair all the roads in it, and Hoang-ti, while enjoying the benefit of his rule, knew that, outside his line of march, the roads were of a very different description to those which had been hastily prepared for his arrival. Wishing to see with his own eyes, he may even have diverged from his route for the purpose of observing the naked reality. His own words sum up the situations “These roads have been made expressly for me, and I am indeed well satisfied. It is not just that I personally should benefit by a convenience of which my subjects have more need than I can have, and one also which I can procure for them. Therefore I decree that roads shall be made in all directions throughout the empire.” Some of the roads made in obedience to this command are said to be still in existence.

We have found from experience and constant observation, extending over a period of seven years, that atmospherical changes in Yokohama and its vicinity are seldom forewarned by the instruments which are of so much value in other parts of the world. The reading of the barometer was about one inch lower on Sunday morning than on the morning before; and steadily declined throughout the remainder of the day to a minimum at 6 p.m. of 29.13. From other districts we have telegraphic advices as follows:—At Tokio at noon, barometer 29.16, wind south-west: at Wakayama, about 280 miles south-west of Tokio, at nine a.m., barometer 29.62, wind north-north-west: at Niigata, about 180 miles from Tokio, barometer 29.22, wind south-east at 4 a.m. The barometrical depression has evidently travelled in a north and westerly direction, and from the magnitude of the area of the storm of which we only experienced the outer skirt or verge, its fury has been expended to the south of us, and we may expect to hear of it from every incoming ship for the next ten days.

THE native papers state that His Imperial Majesty the Mikado visited the naval academy on the 19th. inst. and witnessed the ceremony of conferring diplomas. His Majesty was attended by their Imperial Highnesses Princes Kita Shirakawa, Fushimi, Higashi Fushimi, and Yamashina and their Excellencies Sanjo, Iwakura, Terashima, Inouye, &c.

A FIRE broke out yesterday at Tori Shinyemon-cho, Tokio, when fifty-five houses were destroyed.

Mr. Yamaguchi, editor of the *Nisshin Shinbun*, has been fined one hundred yen for publishing a memorial, forwarded to Prince Arisugawa by Mr. Awokawa relative to the national debt.

THE *Akebono Shinbun* says that in consequence of immigration the population of Loo-choo has so much increased that the rice crops are totally inadequate to the demand. It has therefore been decided to import 10,000 koku annually from Osaka. Many *shisoku* of that ken have decided to remove to Tokio in consequence of this arrangement.

## Law Reports.

## IN THE NETHERLAND'S CONSULAR COURT.

Before F. G. SCRIBE, Esq., Acting Consul

J. WOLFS Esq. and A. REIMERS Esq.  
Assessors.

Wednesday 2nd. November 1881.

SEPTIMUS SHORT v. J. P. VON HEMERT.

The case was adjourned on the 27th. ult. on which date the farther hearing was fixed for to-day.

Mr. Lowder again appeared for the plaintiff and Mr Kirkwood for the defendant.

Mr. Lowder produced a certified copy of the bill of sale as ordered by the court at its last sitting. He also produced certified copy of endorsement on the said bill of sale by Mr. Dickins resigning his trusteeship. The ten debentures were also handed in by the learned counsel.

With regard to paragraph 5 of the petition which was denied by the defence Mr. Lowder said he was able to produce two letters addressed by Mr. Dickins to the plaintiff by which it will appear that the latter was the holder of the bill of sale.

Mr. Kirkwood objected to the letters being produced as they were written by a person who is not a party to the suit and therefore could not be taken as evidence.

The court over ruled the objection.

Mr. Lowder then read extracts from the letters. He then handed in a copy of an account between John Grigor and the plaintiff as well as a sworn statement made by the plaintiff showing that the ten debentures now produced in court are owned by him.

Mr. Lowder asked to be allowed to give evidence as to the handwriting of the late Mr. Grigor.

The court objected to his doing so but consented to hear any statement made by him.

Mr. Lowder then said he was intimately acquainted with the late Mr. Grigor. He recognised his handwriting in the letters now produced and also the signature of Septimus Short to the statement just read. He then handed in a protest made by the plaintiff in this suit against the sale of the furniture of the "Grand Hotel." An affidavit by Mr. Von Hemert was read and handed in and also a statement of accounts between him and the late Mr. Grigor.

Mr. Kirkwood in defence urged that Mr. Short, by the terms of the bill of sale, cannot file an action against Mr. Von Hemert as he was not a party to it. He contended and would being legal evidence to prove that Mr. Dickins had no power to retire from the trusteeship and that it did not appear that any person was appointed in his stead. If, however, he did so retire the whole property was vested in the late Mr. Grigor who subsequently mortgaged it to Mr. Von Hemert, who made repeated applications to Mr. Grigor for a repayment of the money advanced on the mortgage, and that ultimately he gave due notice that he should sell the property in order to recover the amount due to him and, to effect a better sale, proposed to put it up in one lot. The debenture holders approved of the estimate made by Mr. Bourne. Mr. Short was not, and never had been a debenture holder until after the conclusion of a suit which took place in the British consular court in 1879.

With reference to the sum of \$6,700 mentioned in the statement handed in by Mr. Lowder the learned counsel read a memorandum signed by all the debenture holders consenting to the furniture being sold for that amount. Mr. Short's name was not included as he was not a debenture holder at the time. He also read a letter from the late Mr. Grigor showing he had then an interest in the property. (A copy of sworn statement made by the late Mr. Grigor in which he stated that the debentures in question were his was then put in.)

Mr. Kirkwood addressed the court at some length and contended that his client was not responsible for the amount claimed by the plaintiff in this suit but that the same ought to be recovered from the estate of the late John Grigor.

Mr. Lowder objected to a portion of the evidence given by the late Mr. Grigor before the British Court being produced. He said it should be handed in *in extenso* and not in part. He addressed the court at some length in reply to the arguments advanced by Mr. Kirkwood. He contended that the action could not be brought by either Mr. Dickins or Mr. Grigor as the former had retired from his trusteeship and that the latter was dead. He urged that whatever transactions had been made by Mr. Von Hemert were not with Messrs. Dickins and Grigor as trustees but with the whole of the debenture holders by whom the bill of sale had been revoked. That Mr. Von Hemert clearly dealt throughout with the debenture holders and not with the trustees. That there was nothing contained in the bill of sale to show that by the resignation of Mr. Dickins the document was solely vested in Mr. Grigor. It followed rather that it would revert to the debenture holders as no provision was made for the resignation of either of the trustees.

Mr. Lowder said he could prove, if called upon to do so, that even at the time when the case referred to was heard in the British Court that Mr. Grigor stated that the debentures now produced were not his but were only held by him as attorney for Mr. Short, who therefore was clearly entitled to recover the amount claimed from the defendant.

Mr. Kirkwood urged in reply that there was no evidence to show that the ten debentures now produced were the ones stated by Mr. Grigor to belong to Mr. Short.

The court adjourned until Wednesday next 9th. when judgment would be given.

IN THE DAI SHIN IN.  
(Supreme Court of Japan.)FRANCISCO DA ROZA, Plaintiff and Appellant,  
againstThe Imperial Government of Japan,  
Department of Finance and Department of  
Justice, Defendant and Respondent.

The petition in the original action brought by the plaintiff in this Court and dated the 15th. September 1881 was printed in the *Japan Gazette* of 18th. September last.

The petition of appeal from the ruling of the Joto Saibansho (Superior Court) was dated the 21st. September and was as follows.

## PETITION OF APPEAL.

The petition of the above named plaintiff and appellant against the Imperial Government of Japan, the above named defendant and respondent, to this Honourable Court sheweth as follows:

1st.—On the 14th. day of June 1881, the plaintiff forwarded through the Vices-Consul for Portugal to the Tokio Joto Saibansho a petition against the Imperial Government of Japan, the said defendant, in respect to certain wrongs and injuries done to the plaintiff by the said defendant; and that thereafter, to wit on the 13th. July 1881, an amended petition in said action was forwarded to the said court through the Acting-Consul for Portugal, praying for judgment against the said defendant for the sum of \$61,481.20.

2nd.—A copy of the said amended petition is annexed to this petition.

3rd.—A copy of the defendant's answer, a document forwarded by the court to the plaintiff on the 22nd. August 1881, is also annexed hereto.

4th.—A copy of the plaintiff's application for a hearing of said cause of date 29th. August is also annexed.

5th.—A copy of the court ruling upon the application for a hearing dated 2nd. September 1881, is also annexed.

6th.—A copy of the plaintiff's second application for a hearing of said cause of date 5th. September 1881, is also annexed.

7th.—A copy of the court ruling upon the second application for a hearing of date 12th. September 1881, is also annexed.

8th.—The names of the officers who acted in the case in the Joto Saibansho and who dismissed the application of the plaintiff for a hearing are

IMAMURA NOBUYUKI, Judge.  
and ANDO YEIKAKU, do.

9th.—The plaintiff dissents from the action taken by the Joto Saibansho in said action and from the rulings made by the judges dismissing the plaintiff's application for a hearing of the said cause for the reasons following.

1st.—The action of the Joto Saibansho in said cause was irregular.

2nd.—The decision of the court in dismissing the application for a hearing was contrary to law.

3rd.—The action of the court in pronouncing upon the case without a trial or hearing and returning the petition to the plaintiff was contrary to law.

4th.—The refusal by the court to hear the plaintiff in said cause was a denial of justice.

The plaintiff therefore prays this Honourable Court that the action of the Joto Saibansho be vacated, set aside and annulled, and that the decision refusing to try said cause and dismissing the plaintiff's application for a hearing be reversed and that the plaintiff may have such other relief as the nature of the case may require.

Geo. WALLACE HILL,  
Counsel for Plaintiff and  
appellant.F. DA ROZA,  
Appellant.

Yokohama, Japan, Sept. 21st. 1881.

The ruling of the Dai Shin In upon these petitions is dated the 11th. November 1881 and is as follows:

To

Sr. FRANCISCO DA ROZA.

Plaintiff in an original petition addressed to the Supreme Court, and in a petition of appeal to the same court to both of which the Imperial Government of Japan, Finance Department and Judicial Department, are named as defendants: and Mr. G. W. Hill, his attorney and counsellor at law.

The Supreme Court is unable to take judicial cognizance of either of the above mentioned petitions.

1.—With reference to the first mentioned :

A similar petition based upon the same grounds of complaint was presented by the plaintiff to the Supreme Court, at Tokio, in which as amended under date 11th. July 1881, the Imperial Government and in particular the two departments thereof in the said petition specified were, as in the petition to this Supreme Court, named as defendants.

The Superior Court having declined to entertain the petition addressed to it, a new petition to the same effect has been presented to this Supreme Court as a court of original jurisdiction in certain cases.

The substance of the petition to the Superior Court and of the original petition to this Supreme Court is a complaint that in a certain suit instituted by the said Francisco da Rosa against a Japanese subject (Francisco da Rosa *versus* Goto Shojiro) in the Tokio court, the said Tokio court failed to do justice to the plaintiff: and the said F. da Rosa, in the two original petitions he has addressed respectively to the Superior Court and to this Supreme Court, seeks to hold the Imperial Government or some departments thereof judicially responsible before these courts for the alleged miscarriage or denial of justice on the part of the said Tokio court.

The Imperial Government does not submit itself or its departments to the jurisdiction of any of its courts at the suit of a plaintiff who seeks to hold the government or any of its departments judicially responsible for the acts of its courts of justice: and that being so, neither the Superior Court nor this Supreme Court has any legal competency to take judicial cognizance of such suits.

This Supreme Court has accordingly declined to entertain the original petition addressed to it, in the same manner as the Superior Court declined to entertain the similar petition addressed to it—though in that case additional grounds for declining were assigned which appear to this court to have been superfluous.

2.—With reference to the petition of appeal addressed to this Supreme Court on appeal from the Superior Court.

The parties named as defendants not having been for this purpose within the jurisdiction of the Superior Court, that court did not render or affect to render any decision upon the case between the parties named as plaintiff and defendant in the petition. As that court therefore neither had nor could have had and never assumed to have judicial cognizance of the case, its action, in respect of which this appeal is preferred, affords no basis upon which to found an appellate jurisdiction in this Supreme Court.

It is desirable to add, with reference to the application for hearing, the refusal of which forms one of the grounds of this appeal, that in seeking, as the plaintiff did, in that and a subsequent application, to treat the statement made by the judges of the Superior Court, when declining to entertain the petition, as an "Answer," in the nature of a Demurrer to the petition, made on behalf of the Imperial Government by officers of one of its departments, the plaintiff totally misapprehended the nature and effect of that document. As already explained, no answer to the petition in the nature of a Demurrer or otherwise has been submitted to the judgment of the courts by or on behalf of the Imperial Government or its departments. The document in question

was, as appeared on the face of it, a statement by the court of its own grounds for declining to entertain the petition.

In returning the present petitions through the hands of the plaintiff's Consul the President of this Supreme Court has in like manner caused this explanatory statement to be prepared and forwarded for the information of the plaintiff: and, in view of the unaccountable misapprehension on the part of the plaintiff as to the purport and effect of the previous communication above alluded to, addressed to him by the judges of the Superior Court, an English version is in this instance annexed so as to preclude the possibility of further misapprehension.

By order of the President of the Supreme Court.

KIDO KOJIRO,

Secretary of the said Court.

Supreme Court of Judicature.

Tokio, the 11th day, 11th month of the 14th year of Meiji.

IN H.I.G. CONSULAR COURT.

Before ED. ZAPPE, Esq.; Consul.

F. V. FISCHER, Esq., and M. BURCHARD, Esq.,  
Assessors.

Thursday, 17th. Nov., 1881.

ED. FISCHER & Co. v. JULIUS MANNICH & Co.

This was a claim for \$1,259.77, including interest from 12th. July 1881.

Both parties appeared and filed statements by which it appears that the sum claimed is on account of short proceeds of a consignment of sugar sent by defendants to plaintiffs. The latter allege that the sugar *did* realize the market prices at the time of the sale for that quality, and dispute the allegation of defendants that they have not acted to the best for their interests.

After hearing the arguments on both sides, the court adjourned until the 28th. inst., in order to receive the evidence which both parties may then be able to produce.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE ON THE  
SILK QUESTION.

Yokohama, 11th. Oct., 1881.

SIR:—I have the honour to address you on behalf of the associated silk trade of Yokohama with reference to the Rengo Kiito Ni Adzukurisho, a species of silk guild recently formed with its headquarters in this port.

On the 20th. July last, the silk merchants of this settlement addressed the Hon. J. A. Bingham, as *doyen* of the Diplomatic Corps, upon the subject of the same guild. Asking reference to that communication, I am able now to write more particularly, inasmuch as this association commenced its operations upon the 15th. ulto.

A table of rules or bye-laws has been published, and these seem to show that it is of an exceedingly exclusive character.

Rule XIII, for instance, reads as follows:—

[Translation.]

"This association will have no transactions with any person who purchases silk in the producing districts for sale to foreigners; or with those who purchase from any person not a member of this association."

And it may be mentioned that either will-

ingly or unwillingly—there is reason to believe in some cases the latter—every native house engaged in the silk trade in this port, has joined the association.

We hear of one or two independent houses trying to start a fresh business outside the guild, but practically they seem to be unable to work it. We hear also of an applicant for a license being told he must wait. We mention these small matters to show that virtually the guild has absorbed the whole of the business in silk in Yokohama.

Further the Shokin Ginko, or "Specie Bank," in conjunction with all the other native banks, has taken steps to deprive any person not belonging to the guild of all financial assistance in buying silk in the interior for transmission to Yokohama; thus virtually rendering all but isolated and small transactions impossible, except for those who transmit the silk to the care of the association.

But the most tangible evidence of the power wielded by the guild seems to be exhibited in the following circumstance:—

Last week, Messrs. W. M. Strachan & Co., British merchants of this place, succeeded in obtaining delivery of 24 bales of silk in Tokio from a silk man not connected with the guild. They had the silk conveyed to Yokohama by train, and had it met at the station by two horse drays owned by foreigners, but with native drivers.

The silk was duly placed in the drays at the goods station, and the drivers proceeded with it up to the settlement.

It was observed, however, that a messenger was despatched at the same time from the station to the premises of the guild, and when the drays were crossing the bridge leaving the station-yard, a policeman came forward and then hurried off.

He appears to have obtained assistance, and just as the drays reached No. 63, (Messrs. Strachan's compound), some six or eight policemen arrived in *jinrikishas*.

One of them called to the coolies who were engaged in unloading the silk to stop, but took no further steps.

What I desire to ask your attention to, is the fact of the guild being thus able to summon the police to its aid to endeavor to interfere with business which is being done without its intervention.

We may, I think, assume as a certainty, that had those drays not been accompanied by foreigners, or had they been ordinary hand carts drawn by coolies, the police would certainly have stopped them.

And if the guild can thus exercise power and influence beyond all legitimate commercial limits, it follows that natives and especially country people will be afraid to enter into transactions except through its medium.

I would therefore take leave, referring again to the communication of 20th. July, to submit to you a request that you would be so good as to endeavour to obtain from H. M. the Mikado's government some disclaimer of all connection with the Rengo Kiito Niadzukurisho, with a proclamation through all the country calculated to relieve the people from all fear of pains and penalties inflicted by it.

Mention has already been made of the Kiito Aratame Kaisha of 1873. The cases seem to contain so much that is similar, that I take leave to refer you to the correspondence between our Chamber of Commerce and H. E. Sir Harry S. Parkes, which then took place.

The first letter from the Chamber was under date 5th November, and the final reply from H. E. Sir Harry S. Parkes was of 31st December.

Among the documents handed in at the time was a statement of an attempt by the Kaisha to forcibly stop some silkworm eggs at the railway station, which were the property of a German firm.

I may also ask attention to the letter from H. E. Terashima Munenori of 24th December to Sir Harry Parkes and to the notification of H. E. Okuma Shigenobu of 18th December, —as apposite to the present case.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

A. J. WILKIN,

for the Committee of the  
Associated Silk Trade.

J. G. KENNEDY Esq.,

&c., &c., &c.,

H. M.'s *Chargé d'Affaires*, Yedo.

[COPY.]

Yedo, October 19th, 1881.

To H. E. INOUE KAWORU.

Minister for Foreign Affairs.

SIR,—I have the honour to enclose copy of a letter which I have received from Mr. Wilkin on behalf of the Committee of the Associated Silk Trade in Yokohama on the subject of the proceedings of the Japanese silk guild *Rengo Kiito*.

Mr. Wilkin, as your Excellency will perceive, refers me to communications which have already passed on the above subject, namely a memorial addressed to Mr. Bingham, as *doyen* of the Diplomatic Corps by the foreign silk merchants of Yokohama on the 20th. July last, and also to the correspondence which took place in 1873 between his Excellency Terashima Munenori, Sir Harry Parkes, and the Yokohama General Chamber of Commerce, respecting the *Kiito Aratame Kaisha*, and which resulted in the issue of a notification by his Excellency Okuma Shigenobu forbidding all attempts on the part of the guild to restrict the freedom of the silk trade. As the above documents are well known to your Excellency I do not propose to allude to them further beyond calling your attention to the prompt action of the Japanese government in 1873, and to the statement contained in His Excellency Terashima's despatch to Sir H. Parkes of the 24th December 1873, to the effect that the Japanese government "has not for a moment sanctioned such illegal acts as the placing of restrictions on silk merchants not belonging to the guild" etc., etc.

Mr. Wilkin, on behalf of the associated silk trade of Yokohama, now invokes my assistance to induce His Imperial Majesty's government to renew their action of 1873, and to disclaim all connection with the new guild entitled *Rengo Kiito-ni-Adukarisho*, and also to move the Japanese government to issue a proclamation throughout the country calculated to relieve the people from all fear.

I venture to believe that your Excellency will readily comply with the expressed wishes of the foreign silk merchants and will authorise me to assure the association that no government assistance has been or will be given to the *Rengo Kiito*.

Such a disclaimer on the part of the government of Japan would be the more appreciated because of evidence adduced by Mr. Wilkin of support given to the proceedings of the silk guild, and especially owing to the recent action of the police at Yokohama

in following the drays of Messrs. Strachan and actually attempting to interfere with the receipt by an English firm of silk purchased by them in Tokio. The action of the police on the occasion is, as your Excellency will, I am sure, admit, calculated to influence the operations of silk producers and to arouse suspicions in the minds of foreign merchants. Another point to which I beg to invite your Excellency's attention is the text of article 15 of the rules of association of the *Rengo Kiito*, etc., which runs as follows:—

Article 15. "In support of our adherence to these articles we have deposited 1,000 yen with the National Bank and should any member violate one article of these rules the whole, or a portion of this deposit shall be forfeited, and his name may be removed from the association by a general resolution of the shareholders."

Such an article would not, I believe, be enforced in an English court in the event of its breach, because, as your Excellency is doubtless aware, agreements in restraint of trade are regarded in English law as illegal, and I would esteem it a favour if your Excellency would inform me whether it could be enforced in a Japanese court of law.

Again I am assured that the carrier companies in the districts of Kofu and Hachioji are refusing to carry goods other than those consigned to members of the *Rengo*. Such a proceeding would appear to be clearly illegal. In short, the foreign silk merchants of Yokohama believe, and not without reason, that an institution like the *Rengo* which can summon the police, dictate to the producers, to the banks, to the examination officers, to the transport companies, and to the chamber of commerce must be supported by the government.

I do not attempt to describe the details of the dispute now existing at Yokohama, but I venture to think that the action of the *Rengo Kiito* is premature, and that compliance with its wishes would prove injurious to the interests of the silk trade, which needs fewer rather than greater restrictions.

In conclusion I beg leave to express my regret that the most important trade of Japan, one that has been amicably and systematically carried on for upwards of twenty years, should now be paralysed by a dispute between a small number of foreigners and Japanese merchants, and I venture to recommend to the serious consideration of His Imperial Majesty's government, whether a remedy against the recurrence of such a spectacle might not be provided by opening to foreigners and to foreign trade the silk districts in the neighbourhood of Tokio.

Such a step might be difficult at the present moment, but the knowledge that such facilities to trade might be favourably considered in connection with treaty revision would, I am sure, go far to remove the angry feeling and the disturbances which now seriously affect the most important trade of the empire.

I take, &c.,

(Signed) J. G. KENNEDY.

H.B.M.'s *Chargé d'Affaires*,  
in Japan.

Foreign Office, Tokio,  
The 9th of the 11th month,  
the 14th year Meiji.

[COPY—TRANSLATION.]

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication dated 19th. October, enclosing copy of a letter addressed

to you by Mr. Wilkin on behalf of the committee of the Foreign Associated Silk Trade of Yokohama, on the subject of the *Rengo Kiito Ni-Adukarisho*.

In addition to that enclosure you refer me to a memorial on the same subject addressed to Mr. Bingham, the *doyen* of the Diplomatic Corps on the 20th July last; also to a correspondence which took place in 1873 between my predecessor and Sir Harry S. Parkes respecting an association also concerned with the silk trade, called the *Kiito Aratame Kaisha*; and with regard to the latter correspondence you call my attention to the action of the imperial government in 1873, and to a statement contained in my predecessor's despatch of the 24th December, 1873. And you express a hope that, in accordance with the desire of those who address you, this government should renew their action of 1873, and disclaim all connection with the new guild above named, and should further issue a proclamation throughout the country calculated to relieve the people from all fear of the exercise of any coercion by the guild over persons not joining the association.

With reference to the correspondence in 1873, and the request based upon it, I should point out to you that the course pursued by this government on that occasion affords no precedent for action in the present instance, as the cases are widely different—seeing that the silk guild now in question does not purport or assume to exercise any authority over others than its own members. This consideration, you will not fail to observe, renders any public action on the part of the government quite uncalled for. At the same time I have no hesitation whatever in acceding to the other branch of your request in assuring you most unreservedly that no government assistance has been or will be given to the guild, which is a voluntary association of traders for trade-purposes, relying for its success solely upon its own legitimate commercial strength and influence, and having no more authority over others than is possessed by the counter-combination of foreign silk merchants over those who may have declined to co-operate with them.

Some of the statements both direct and inferential, contained in the letter you enclose, which you appear to have fully accepted as well-founded, appear to me at present lacking in that authentication without which any official enquiry would be premature. The case, however, of the alleged action of certain police officers, though not agreeing in all respects with the account given of it by Mr. Wilkin, and by no means warranting the deductions that have been drawn from it, has I regret to say a foundation in fact which distinguishes it from the class of statements above referred to, and demands for it a full explanation. Upon enquiry I have ascertained that the *Ni-Adukarisho* had employed some police-officers to guard its premises under an arrangement with the police office which it is equally open, not only to every Japanese subject, but to every foreign firm or resident to enter into. The guild, however, made an improper use of the services of some of the officers thus employed by it, in detailing them to watch the action of members of the guild outside the premises of the guild; and the police officers themselves were guilty of a dereliction of duty in performing such functions. It is the fact that, acting in this capacity, four (not six or eight) policemen followed the carts in question for the purpose above alluded to, but they deny having ordered the coolies to cease unloading, as alleged.



One of the officers employed by the guild referred the matter to his superiors for instructions; whereupon those officers who had allowed their services to be thus improperly used were immediately reprimanded, and strict injunctions were laid both upon the guild and the officers employed by it which will effectually prevent the recurrence of any such proceeding. This explanation, shewing as it does that in the only matter from which government support to the guild could be legitimately inferred, the inference is without foundation, will, I trust, serve to dissipate the erroneous impressions which it seems are entertained as to the general attitude of the government towards the guild.

You further especially invite my attention to the text of an article which you quote at length, as "Article 15 of the *Rengo Kiito (Ni-Adasukarisho)*" The article in question is to be found, not in the rules of the *Ni-Adasukarisho* itself, but in those of a kindred institution—the association of dealers in silk Exports. Nevertheless, while I cannot venture to answer your hypothetical question by anticipating the decision of a court of law upon the validity of such an article (a course which I believe you will recognize as one scarcely proper for me to take in any case) I may, without questioning the correctness so far as it goes of the view expressed by you of the English law on this subject, be permitted to point out to you that, as I am advised, agreements in the nature of trade combinations, though containing provisions which, as being in restraint of trade, would not be directly enforced by a court of law, are not on that account necessarily illegal for other purposes.

The suggestion as to opening the silk districts which you make with a view to obviate similar difficulties in the future, raises questions which I feel to be at once too wide and too delicate for me to handle thus incidentally to a local, and (as I believe) temporary trade dispute between buyers and sellers of silk—a dispute which I venture to think should be left to adjust itself upon ordinary economic principles. But I may add, as you suggest, that any such proposition if brought forward by foreign governments upon general grounds in connection with revision of the treaties, will receive the most respectful consideration at the hands of this government.

In conclusion I desire to assure you that this government deprecates as sincerely as yourself the existing disturbance of the silk-trade, so far as it has in its effects transcended the limits of an ordinary struggle between contending commercial elements. I desire also in deference to the expression given by you to the apprehension of those whose interests appear to them to be threatened, to emphasize the assurance that any illegal proceedings, properly demanding the intervention of the executive government, shall, upon duly authenticated information being given to the proper authorities, be dealt with in strict accordance with the law appropriate to the case.

Accept, &c.,

(Signed) INOUE KAORU,

H. I. J. M.'s Minister for  
Foreign Affairs.

J. G. KENNEDY, Esq.,  
&c., &c., &c.

### THE FOREIGN SILK ASSOCIATION.

The following correspondence in connection with the recent action of the chairman of the foreign silk association, has been handed to us for publication:—

(Copy.)

Yokohama, Nov. 11th., 1881.

A. J. WILKIN, Esq.

DEAR SIR:—As co-members of the silk trade committee we venture to point out to you our disapproval of your action in regard to the steps you have individually been taking in the question of settlement of the differences existing between buyers and sellers of silk.

We disapproved at the time, of your being present at the meeting held at the American legation at the request of the American minister by the appointment of Messrs. Shibusawa and Masuda: but as you chose to disregard our wishes, we are pained to observe in the minutes of that meeting which have been published in the *Japan Mail*, that you did not clearly inform the conference that you were not empowered to speak either as one of the committee, or as representing any opinion but your own. We are also pained to observe, in those minutes, that you favoured the idea of a central market, notwithstanding you were aware that in the rough draft of the second address to the merchants of the interior, the paragraph in which a central market was alluded to was declared to be improper and consequently expunged.

We learn that you have also written an answer to the letter addressed by the import merchants to our silk association, and that in your answer you have advocated the feasibility and propriety of a central market.

On behalf of the silk association which we represent until a meeting is called, we strongly protest against the whole of your individual action in this matter; and especially of your canvassing the foreign community to support your views without informing them that your colleagues are entirely in opposition to yourself in this matter, and averse to any such settlement.

We are, Dear Sir,

Your obedient servants,

(Signed.) { E. BAVIER.  
TOM. THOMAS.  
N. P. KINGDON.

(Copy.)

Yokohama, 12th. November 1881.

Messrs. E. DE BAVIER, TOM. THOMAS and N. P. KINGDON.

DEAR SIRS:—I am in receipt of your letter of yesterday and am sorry to learn therefrom, that my action has given you pain: this is the more unfortunate since I may say that I have seldom or ever in my life gone through so harassing and arduous a six or eight weeks as those now passed, and that further I have striven my best to work so as to meet the views and interests of the whole body of foreign merchants.

I think, however, that your letter conveys some misapprehensions which are capable of removal; and let me also say that your assumption of the right to dictate to me in my individual capacity, I must at once repudiate.

In reference to the disapproval which you now express of my proceeding to the U. S. legation; let me say that my memory may be wrong, but I fail to recall a single instance in which any of you either before or after, expressed your disapproval; and if so it is

strange that this is the first occasion on which you put it on record. Further, let me remind you that you knew that some such meeting was proposed long before it took place, and that when the definite proposal for it came, I went out in search of the committee to put the letter containing it before them, and sent a written communication to those I could not find.

While I hope I am open to any reasonable advice, I must, however, deny your right to any way bind me in such a matter.

As for the minutes as published, they are not authorized by me: but I deem that for all necessary purposes it is quite sufficient that it was explicitly stated in writing beforehand that I went as a private individual.

And for my part upon looking through the copy of the minutes which I have, the idea which strikes me is that I can scarcely be said to be represented as favouring a "central market."

Nor have I written "any answer to the letter addressed by the import merchants to the association." I have refrained from doing anything but in my capacity as an individual. I have put in writing to the import merchants what I have told them verbally, and said again and again any time this two months. Indeed what I have said to them may be found indicated in the printed report of my remarks at the German Club at the meeting of the 20th September. I do not hesitate to repeat one day what I have said the day before. Nor to write down what I have said, if there is any occasion for it: only a craven does otherwise, I imagine.

I may as well put on record (I have already communicated to several whom I came across the substance of it) what I jotted down for the import people on the 9th. inst.

"Memorandum:—Personally I myself am in favour of any plan for the sale of silk which will improve the present one.

"If this could be done by a general warehouse I should be in favour of it: it would be necessary not only that this warehouse should be in a convenient place and conveniently constructed, but that both buyers and sellers should be quite satisfied that their rights were preserved, and especially it would be no use unless silk could be delivered like the muster. Until such arrangements can be made and for the present I think something of the following plan would answer well. The silk to be brought into foreigners' godowns for inspection and the foreign buyer to give a godown order"—and so forth.

And I challenge the verdict of every reasonable man upon this.

I may add that next day the import people came and said that this answered all the purpose that they wanted, and they would now insist upon business being resumed. This I may say was to me a very agreeable surprise. They were pressing to know how far other foreigners would be disposed towards similar ideas. I told them there would be no meeting for some days and so forth: and as they continued pressing, I suggested that they should show their sincerity and settle the matter right off by sending me up 10 bales; and this they agreed to do and did yesterday.

I should have much preferred to have done nothing as an individual: this in the nature of things was impossible, as all day communications of various kinds were always reaching me, and of necessity they must be dealt with at once. I have always endeavored to keep the committee quite *au fait* of all that came before me, but I must be excused if I say that I do not think the committee have

fairly supported me. I have had to stand as the target of everybody, to receive all kinds of visits and communications, but I have felt that I have been altogether fettered by the committee. Information or impressions which I have derived, I have passed on, only to be negated or disregarded: I have been in the false position of a simple machine, as if I had no discretion or mind of my own: till as I told some of you some days ago, I could and would be in such a position no longer. Twice during the last nine days I have called a committee meeting and only one of you has come. There has been no public meeting for more than three weeks, and I have felt that you were not carrying out the spirit of the resolution passed at last meeting, but acting on your own views, or some of them, which were so generally rejected at that meeting.

As for my canvassing to support my views, I plead guilty to having—as part of my labours—gone as time permitted me to one or other of the foreign community to discuss with them the proposals of the Japanese, and I deny any one's right to question my doing so. I venture to say that the rest of the committee have not refrained from doing this, and I may add that I have not hesitated to express my colleagues' views, also, when so engaged.

In conclusion, I may say, that I am notifying the members of the association that I retire from the committee, and shall append copy of this correspondence: and I also reserve the right to give it other publicity.

And if in what I have done, any harm is likely to result, I look to your tact and ability to set it right.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) A. J. WILKIN.

(Copy.)

Yokohama, Nov. 12th., 1881.

A. J. WILKIN, Esq.,

SIR:—We have received your letter of to-day informing us that you retire from the committee of the silk trade association.

We regret exceedingly that you did not take this step earlier, in order that your actions as an individual might not have gone forward to the Japanese under the cloak of your official position as chairman of our committee and of the silk trade association, and thereby have prevented the Japanese being misled into the terms they are now demanding for the resumption of business.

We are, Sir,

Your obedient servants,

(Signed) { N. P. KINGDON,  
TOM. THOMAS,  
E. DE BAVIER.

Cheung Ta-tsing, recently appointed Minister for China to United States, Peru and Spain, who had lately returned from Peking to Canton, where he has spent several weeks, is now in Hongkong en route for Washington. His Excellency is staying in the Meng Lee Chan a Chinese Hotel in Wing Lok Street. H. E. with his suite, translator and family will leave here for Washington by the O. & O. steamer *Oceanic* on the 16th inst.—*China Mail*.

# IN THE U. S. CONSULAR GENERAL COURT.

Before General VAN BUREN, Consul-General.

OSAKI YOSHISUKE v. J. MARIANS & Co.

The plaintiff was represented by Mr. Shimozu who presented the following petition:—

1.—That on the 26th. October 1881, the plaintiff purchased from the defendant 300 dozen of hare skins at the value of \$5.40 per dozen and the plaintiff received two dozen of the said skins as a sample.

2.—That on the same day the plaintiff gave to the defendants the following memorandum:—

## PURCHASE BOND

300 dozen hare skins as per sample. Size only  $\times \times \times$  \$5.40 per dozen. 2 dozen received as sample above mentioned. I have duly entered the contract to purchase and same shall be completed on 2nd. November 1881.

I further agree to take delivery of the same as soon as they are landed.

(Signed) OSAKI YOSHISUKE.

” OSUYA YESUKE.

26th. October 1881.

3.—That on the 3rd Nov. 1881, the said skins arrived and on the 4th of same month the plaintiff demanded delivery of the same but defendants refused.

4.—The plaintiff therefore prays that the defendant be ordered by this honorable court to deliver 278 dozen of the said skins in balance or in default of the said delivery the defendants may be ordered to pay forthwith the sum of \$180 being the difference between the contract price and the present market price, or such other sum as to the court may seem just, together with interest thereon at the rate of 10 per cent. and cost of this suit.

5.—That the plaintiff may receive such further other relief as the nature of the case may require.

(Signed) J. SHIMOZU,

Attorney for Plaintiff.

Mr. Weiller on behalf of the defendants replied as follows:—

And now come the defendants in the above named cause and in answer to the plaintiff, deny each and every allegation made by the said plaintiff in the said petition.

And for a further answer defendants state that the plaintiff is justly indebted to them in the sum of \$10.80, the price of two dozen rabbit skins which the defendants sold to the plaintiff at \$5.40 per dozen, which said rabbit skins the plaintiff took possession of but did not pay for, and has not at this date paid for.

Wherefore defendants pray that the petition of plaintiff be dismissed, and that he be ordered to pay the said sum of \$10.80 to the defendants and the costs of this action and for such other relief as the nature of the case may require.

(Signed) ALFRED WEILER,

Attorney for Plaintiff.

After these statements had been handed in the evidence of both parties was taken which was both voluminous and conflicting. After some arguments between the contending parties the case was, by mutual consent, adjourned until 11 a.m. to-morrow in order that other witnesses might be forthcoming.

# HONGKONG.

(Hongkong Daily Press.)

The *Amoy Gazette* of the 7th instant gives the following particulars of the stranding of the steamer *Pakhoi* on the 5th inst.:—“It is with regret we have to report the wreck of the steamer *Pakhoi* from Shanghai with a general cargo for this port; whilst she was coming into the harbour on Saturday, at about 6.45 p.m., she struck on Brown's Rock and remained stationary. Every effort was made to get her off, but unsuccessfully. Her decks are all under water at high tide. A great number of cargo boats went alongside and received all the moveables from the steamer. Some of the cargo also has been salvaged. A considerable amount of looting took place, the fishermen and sampanmen crowding on board so soon as the vessel's distress was evident, and carrying off ropes, blocks, and everything that could be picked up or cut away. This speaks badly for the police of the port. At the present time the *Faihoo* is lying off the wreck, to which she proceeded so soon as steam could be got up, after the accident. There is every hope that the steamer will eventually be saved.”

Some anxiety is being felt as to the fate of the British steamer *Charlton* which left Newcastle, N. S. W., on the 28th September direct for this port. She is now considerably overdue, as the voyage including stoppages at the various ports on the way is one of thirty days.

The Agents (Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co.) inform us that the steamer *Glenfinlas*, from London, left Singapore for this port on Saturday, the 12th instant.

The Agents (Messrs. Russell & Co.) inform us that the Union Line steamer *Lord of the Isles*, from London, left Singapore for this port on the 12th instant.

(China Mail.)

The funeral of one of the wives of Messrs. Turner & Co.'s Compradore took place this afternoon (Nov. 3rd.) about one o'clock, and was conducted with all the pomp and gorgeous display at the command of a Chinese occupying a well-to-do position. The deceased was the second of four wives, but had been promoted to the position of first wife on the death of the senior some years ago. She was 45 years of age, and leaves, we are informed, two grown-up sons. The death occurred about four weeks ago, in the family house in Shelley Street, where constant mourning ceremonials by a large household retinue, as well as by numerous friends of the deceased, have been carried on ever since in the true orthodox fashion peculiar to the Chinese. The husband of the deceased purchased the rank of a mandarin some years ago, and the display to-day was conducted with all the dignity befitting the rank of one holding that position. The procession was a long one, consisting of the usual varied collection of coolies and boys dressed up in the most gorgeously-coloured and fantastically-arranged robes, some carrying banners inscribed with legends detailing the virtues of the deceased, others carrying chairs and trays laden with the carcasses of sheep, goats, deer and fowls, together with a large collection of fruits, flowers and cakes. Some seven or eight Chinese bands occupied positions in

the cortege, discoursing music of the most discordant description, but suitable we presume to the occasion. Two bodies of Chinese priests and a party of Chinese nuns also appeared in the throng; and the whole was brought up by the body, placed in a large bier profusely decorated with flowers, carried by sixteen bearers, and surrounded by a large gathering of mourners, the more immediate friends and relatives of the family. The procession took its way from Shelley Street by Hollywood Road, Wellington and D'Aguilar Streets, and the Praya to the H. C. and Macao Steamboat Company's Wharf, where the body was placed on board the steamer *White Cloud* for conveyance to Macao, en route to the native place of deceased where interment will take place. A large match shed was erected in the morning at the junction of Wing Lok Street with Bonham Street where many friends and relatives assembled from time to time during the forenoon to pay their tribute of respect to the memory and good qualities of the departed.

It would appear that no Singapore Mail has come on by the *Thibet*. This is not the first time it has occurred, and although less attention is paid to it now than formerly, yet as we look for fuller telegrams by this mail than the scraps forwarded by Reuter to us here, its non-arrival entails a certain amount of inconvenience.

By the arrival of the steamship *Menmuir* to-day (Nov. 8th.), we have little or no additional news respecting the loss of the British steamer *Brisbane*, although she brought on to this port the doctor and the Chinese portion of the latter vessel's crew. There had been saved about 400 tons of cargo before the ship became a total wreck, and up to the 27th. ultimo, the date of Captain Craig's last letter, salvaging operations were still going on and 100 tons had then been saved, while another hundred was about all that he expected from further efforts. All the prepared opium was being landed. A Marine Court of Inquiry was held on the 28th October to investigate the circumstances attending the loss of the steamer, with the result that the Captain and officers were exonerated from all blame. The ship went on the rocks during an intensely thick haze, through which it was scarcely possible to distinguish anything more than about half the ship's length distant, besides which there was a strong current setting down to the South-West.

We are informed by the Agents (Messrs. Butterfield and Swire), that the Ocean Steamship Co.'s steamer *Jason* from Liverpool, left Singapore on the forenoon of the 12th. instant for this port and Shanghai.

MACAO.—Nov. 9th.—Quite a sensational affair took place this morning. It seems that a soldier for some military offence, had been condemned, a few days ago, to two years' imprisonment. This morning, in being transported from one part of the prison to another, he broke loose from the turnkeys, and flying past the astonished guard was outside of the walls in a moment. I happened to be on the Praya at about eleven a.m., and met the fellow running like a deer, with a cudgel in either hand, and about twenty breathless "peelers" following in his wake. The sentinel in front of the Fazenda, with two other comrades, attacked him with their

bayonets, and after inflicting a slight wound on his arm, brought him to bay. In a few seconds the other posse was on the scene, and a remarkable amount of gesticulating and loud talking ensued, during which the prisoner was surrounded and led off. The cause of his foolish act is unknown. He is to be tried by court-martial, and will, in all probability receive a long term of punishment. The fellow is of unusually large stature and so fleet of foot, that had he run into China town, he might have escaped.

During the night of the 8th—9th. there was a serious set-to between the Chinese Custom house, officers and some smugglers, on the mainland opposite the harbour—a place known as Sha Ming. Two of the smugglers were killed; one, shot through the head, died instantly; the other died in the Hospital this afternoon, of a breast wound.

A third is severely wounded in the leg, but will probably recover. Of course, the affair is beyond the pale of Macaoese jurisdiction, though enquiry will be made on the part of the local authorities.—*China Mail*.

## Shipping.

### ARRIVALS.

Nov. 10, Jap. str. *Hiroshima-Maru*, Haswell, 1,870, from Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.  
 Nov. 10, Brit. str. *Malacca*, Weighell, 1,709, from Hongkong via Nagasaki, Mails and General, to P. & O. Co.  
 Nov. 11, Jap. str. *Kumamoto-Maru*, Drummond, 1,240, from Hakodate, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.  
 Nov. 12, Russian gun-boat *Abreck*, Comd. Schaus, 7-guns, 1,000 tons, from Hakodate.  
 Nov. 12, Brit. str. *Kamchatka*, James, 702, from Hakodate, Furs and Seaweed, to Walsh, Hall & Co.  
 Nov. 12, Am. schr. *Alexander*, Carlson, 72, from Kurile Islands, Skins, to J. E. Collyer & Co.  
 Nov. 13, Ger. brig *Maid Marian*, —, 250, from Amoy, Oct. 1st, Ballast, to P. Bohm.  
 Nov. 14, Brit. str. *Yorkshire*, Longley, 1,561, from London via Shanghai, General, to Smith, Baker & Co.  
 Nov. 14, Jap. str. *Kokonoye-Maru*, Dithlefsen, 1,183, from Hakodate, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.  
 Nov. 15, Froh. str. *Folga*, Guirand, 1,502, from Hongkong, Mails and General, to M. M. Co.  
 Nov. 15, Am. schr. *Otsego*, Pearce, 86, from Kurile Islands, 1100 Seal skins and 15 Otter skins, to H. Cook.  
 Nov. 15, Brit. str. *Strathmore*, Rowell, 1,383, from London via Shanghai, General, to Smith, Baker & Co.  
 Nov. 15, Jap. str. *Higo-Maru*, Walker, 896, from Hakodate, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.  
 Nov. 16, Am. str. *City of Tokio*, Maury, 5,050, from San Francisco, Mails and General, to P. M. Co.  
 Nov. 17, Jap. str. *Shinagawa-Maru*, Walker, 908, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.  
 Nov. 18, Jap. str. *Takachiho-Maru*, Nye, 1,406, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.  
 Nov. 17, Jap. str. *Tokio-Maru*, Swain, 2,119, from Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.  
 Nov. 17, Russ. schr. *Adels*, Goulde, 42, from Kurile Islands, 40 otter skins and 1,200 seal skins, to F. Retz.  
 Nov. 17, Dan. schr. *Helena*, Ewart, 52, from Kurile Islands, 40 otter and 500 seal skins, to Captain.  
 Nov. 18, Jap. barq. *Kanagawa-Maru*, Eekstrand, 1,184, from Nagasaki, Coals, to M. B. Co.  
 Nov. 19, Jap. str. *Wakanoura-Maru*, Christensen, 1,300, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.  
 Nov. 20, Jap. barq. *Kinokuni-Maru*, Nichols, 960, from Nagasaki, Coals, to M. B. Co.  
 Nov. 21, Jap. str. *Sumida-Maru*, Hubenet, 896, from Hongkong via Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.  
 Nov. 22, Brit. str. *Oceanic*, Metcalfe, 3,700, from Hongkong, Mails and General, to O. & O. Co.  
 Nov. 22, Am. ship *William J. Rotch*, Bray, 1,717, from New York, 89,000 cases Kerosene and General, to O. & J. Trading Co., Limited.

### DEPARTURES.

Nov. 8, Jap. str. *Takachiho-Maru*, Nye, 1,406, from Hakodate, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.  
 Nov. 8, Jap. str. *Wakanoura-Maru*, Christensen, 1,300, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.  
 Nov. 9, Brit. str. *Gaelic*, Kidley, 2,704, for San Francisco, Mails and General, despatched by O. & O. Co.  
 Nov. 9, H. B. M. surveying-vessel *Flying Fish*, Lieut.-Com. Hoakyn, 4-guns, 836 H.P., 78 men, for Kobe.  
 Nov. 9, Jap. str. *Meiji-Maru*, Peters, 1,010, for Lighthouse Inspection, despatched by Lighthouse Dept.  
 Nov. 9, Jap. str. *Genkai-Maru*, Conner, 1,917, for Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. Co.  
 Nov. 10, Jap. 3-masted schr. *Awajishima-Maru*, Creighton, 660, for Nagasaki, Ballast, despatched by M. B. Co.  
 Nov. 12, Brit. str. *Lucile*, Koch, —, for Shanghai via Kobe, Ballast, despatched by Ed. Fischer & Co.  
 Nov. 12, Brit. barq. *Charwood*, Hiscocks, 837, for Kobe, General, despatched by A. Reimers & Co.  
 Nov. 12, Jap. str. *Wakanoura-Maru*, Christensen, 1,300, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. Co.  
 Nov. 12, Froh. str. *Mensaleh*, Homery, 1,273, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by M. M. Co.  
 Nov. 12, Ger. barq. *Pallas*, Lueders, 493, for Guam, Ballast, despatched by Captain.  
 Nov. 12, Jap. str. *Takasago-Maru*, Young, 1,230, for Hongkong via Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. Co.  
 Nov. 15, Brit. barq. *Royal Tar*, Graves, 598, for Victoria, Ballast, despatched by Walsh, Hall & Co.  
 Nov. 15, Jap. str. *Kumamoto-Maru*, Drummond, 1,240, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. Co.  
 Nov. 15, Brit. str. *Kamchatka*, Hussey, 702, for Shanghai, General, despatched by Walsh, Hall & Co.  
 Nov. 16, Brit. str. *Bengloe*, Webster, 1,198, for New York via ports, General, despatched by Mourilyan, Heiman & Co.  
 Nov. 17, Ger. corvette *Stosch*, Capt. Blanz, 3,000 tons, 16-guns, 400 men, for Kobe.  
 Nov. 17, Am. str. *City of Tokio*, Maury, 5,050, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by P. M. Co.  
 Nov. 17, Russian Corvete *Abreck*, Comd. Schaus, 7-guns, 1,000 tons, for Nagasaki.  
 Nov. 17, Jap. str. *Kokonoye-Maru*, Dithlefsen, 1,183, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. Co.  
 Nov. 18, Brit. str. *Malacca*, Weighell, 1,709, for Hongkong via Higo and Nagasaki, Mails and General, despatched by P. & O. Co.  
 Nov. 19, Jap. str. *Hiroshima-Maru*, Haswell, 1,870, for Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. Co.  
 Nov. 21, Brit. str. *Yorkshire*, Longley, 1,561, for Kobe, General, despatched by Smith, Baker & Co.  
 Nov. 21, Jap. str. *Takachiho-Maru*, Nye, 1,406, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. Co.  
 Nov. 22, Am. ship *McLaurin*, Little, 1,459, for San Francisco, Tea and General, despatched by Walsh, Hall & Co.

### PASSENGERS.

Per Jap. str. *Takachiho-Maru* from Hakodate:—Messrs. Perry, Horton and C. Mapes in cabin; and 180 Japanese in steerage.  
 Per Jap. str. *Wakanoura-Maru*, from Kobe:—2 Japanese in cabin; and 52 Japanese in steerage.  
 Per Brit. str. *Gaelic*, for London:—Mr. A. S. Forbes in cabin. For San Francisco: Mr. L. L. Forbes, Mrs. A. S. Forbes, Capt. Sherman, Capt. L. Montgomery and servant, Dr. H. Stewart, u.s.n., Messrs. W. R. Dunn, R. Yesoye, A. Wegmans, G. O. Tobey in cabin; 2 Europeans and 400 Chinese in steerage.  
 Per Jap. str. *Genkai-Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Messrs. S. Endicott, Dataoka, C. Wiggins, Blum, E. H. Tucker, Honso, W. S. Paterson, Revd. J. H. Willis, Revd. E. R. Willis, Revd. J. Coote, and 5 Japanese in cabin.  
 Per Jap. str. *Hiroshima-Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Dr. Lyons, Dr. Owen, u.s.n., Lieut. Saymons, u.s.n., Paymaster O. O. Tiffany, u.s.n., Messrs. G. Wanchope, J. D. Walker, B. D. Walker, Bishop, u.s.n., and 7 Japanese in cabin; 3 Europeans, 2 Chinese and 211 Japanese in steerage.

Per Brit. str. *Malacca*, from Hongkong:—Messrs. A. Woolley, R. N. Rogers and Sam Loong in cabin; and 1 Indian on deck. From Naga-aki: Mr. Ginsburg in cabin.

Per Frch. str. *Mentaleh*, for Hongkong:—Messrs. V. Kostiff, Maeda, Tani, Muratomi, Marmond, Ito, Akiyama, and two Chinese in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Takasago-Maru*, for Hongkong via Kobe:—Miss Young, Messrs. Basing, Dowsen, Fabre and two Japanese in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Kokonoye-Maru*, from Hakodate:—Dr. Edmond Newmann and 5 Japanese in cabin; and 100 Japanese in steerage.

Per Brit. str. *Kamitchatka*, from Hakodate:—Messrs. Phillipus, Slipenbach, Swett, Conibes, Bush and Lieut. Müller, R.N.

Per Frch. str. *Volga*, from Hongkong:—Messrs. Hake, Kinoshita, Nokgnamo Hodzoin, and Huss in cabin.

Per Am. str. *City of Tokio*, from San Francisco:—Rev. F. S. Dobbins, Mrs. F. S. Dobbins and child, Rev. N. W. Halcomb, Miss J. E. Doty, Mrs. W. F. McConnell, Rev. R. M. Mattee, Miss J. Leavitt, Miss J. M. Orr, General D. Macentyre, Messrs. W. F. McConnell, G. A. Shufeldt, Geo. Irvine, Geo. Baillie, O. Yamada and F. A. Carl in cabin. For Hongkong: Capt. B. T. Sherburne, Miss E. Sherburne, Messrs. C. C. Heilman, W. Gerdes, Miss Archibald, Miss Butler, Miss G. Stewart, Rev. J. C. Thompson and wife in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Hiogo-Maru* from Hakodate:—25 Japanese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Tokio-Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Messrs. B. O. Scott, U.S.N., R. A. Mees, Joh Sharp, C. W. Baird, Galitzki, Marshall, Maxwell, Satow, E. C. Kirby, O. Reimers, and 12 Japanese in cabin; 2 Europeans, 1 Chinese and 226 Japanese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Takachiho-Maru*, from Kobe:—120 Japanese in steerage.

Per Am. str. *City of Tokio*, for Hongkong:—Major Palmer, Mr. A. H. C. Hasselwood, and Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Cook in cabin.

Per Brit. str. *Malacca* for Hongkong via Hiogo and Naga-aki:—Mr. and Mrs. Cox, Miss Cox, Master Cox, Dr. Blennerhassett, Dr. Large, Messrs. Allington, T. Idley, J. Barclay, H. Creech, MacLagan, Ohun Te Ko, Lo Tock Nuen, R. H. Brown, F. H. Windham, H. Bokuro, P. Colomb, A. Woolley in cabin; and 6 Japanese and 3 Chinese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Hiroshima-Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Ford, Miss Mateer, Miss Leavitt, Miss Orr, Mr. and Mrs. Grigor, Miss Daly, Miss G. Mathews, Rev. R. M. Mateer, Messrs. N. W. Halcomb, G. A. Schufeldt, T. A. Carl, J. J. Quin, F. H. Hake, G. Montgomery, J. North, M. Fitzgerald, Noyes, Morehouse, J. H. Oliver, E. Bonger, and 21 Japanese in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Wakamura-Maru*, from Kobe:—Messrs. Jones and Connor, and 100 Japanese.

Per Jap. str. *Sumida-Maru*, from Hongkong via Kobe:—Messrs. C. Leach, H. Brown, C. Anbon and 1 Japanese in cabin; 5 Chinese and 120 Japanese in steerage.

Per Brit. str. *Oceanic* from Hongkong for San Francisco:—Capt. C. H. Sawyer, Messrs. Chan Yuck Chin and wife, Chan Kim Chew, Chan Hon Ping, Chan Hong Sing, Choy Yick Hing, Chen Hon Hing, Henry Green, Chan Shun Poo, Low Wat Sun, Lai Kut Se, Ooi Kum Tong, Choy Wo Po, Sew Yuck Ting, and W. J. Robinson in cabin; and 844 Chinese in steerage. For Yokohama: Messrs. C. R. Lewis and I. D. Hutchinson in cabin.

Per Am. ship *McLaurin* for San Francisco:—Mr. Heberton.

### REPORTS.

The Japanese steamer *Takachiho-Maru* reports:—Left Hakodate at 8 p.m. 5th inst. Experienced strong Easterly wind with heavy sea on account of which we put in to Sendai on Sunday 6th. Left again at 5 a.m. 7th inst. Thence to port moderate S.W. wind with fine weather, latter part dense fog unable to see a ship's length ahead. Arrived at noon 8th inst.

The Japanese steamer *Wakamura-Maru* reports:—Left Kobe, 7th November, at 6 a.m. Experienced light westerly wind with fine weather throughout. Arrived, 8th November, at 2 p.m. Passage 34 hours.

The Japanese steamer *Hiroshima-Maru* reports:—Left Kobe at 6 p.m. 8th inst. Experienced light N.W. winds with fine weather, latter part foggy. Arrived at 1 a.m. 10th inst. Passage 31 hours.

The British steamer *Malacca* reports:—Left Hongkong at 12.20 p.m. Nov. 2nd. Experienced high N. Easterly winds and fine weather on the China coast; thence to Nagasaki moderate N.E. and N. Westerly winds and cloudy. Arrived at Nagasaki on the 6th at midnight and left at 2 p.m. the 7th.

Passing through the Inland sea had light N. Westerly winds and cloudy, rounded Oo-sima at 11.15 a.m. the 9th and fine; thence to Yokohama light variable winds and fine. Arrived at 12.20 p.m. the 10th.

The M. B. steamer *Kumamoto-Maru*, Capt. Drummond, reports:—Having spoken the Otter Hunting Schooner *Otago*, bound to Yokohama off Cape Devries, on the 9th instant, with \$15,000 worth of furs on board. All well.

The British steamer *Kamitchatka* reports:—Left Hakodate at 4 p.m. on Thursday, 10th inst. Experienced calm with heavy rain showers to Kinkasan; thence to Susaki strong N.W. winds; from thence to port fresh N.E. with cloudy weather. Arrived at 11 p.m. 12th inst.

The German brig *Maid Marion* reports:—Experienced a succession of adverse gales with unsettled weather throughout. On the 11th inst., the mate died of fever and his remains will be conveyed on shore and buried to-day.

The Japanese steamer *Kokonoye-Maru* reports:—Left Hakodate on Friday, Nov. 11th, 7 p.m. Experienced moderate N.W. winds and fine weather throughout the passage. Arrived on Monday, 14th inst. at 7 a.m.

The French steamer *Volga* reports:—Left Hongkong Nov. 7th, 6 p.m. Experienced fresh N.E. monsoon on China coast on Japan coast mostly N.E. winds, with unsettled weather. Arrived 6 a.m. Passage 7 days 12 hours.

The American steamer *City of Tokio* reports:—Left San Francisco Oct. 25th, at 3.10 p.m. to Oct. 29th had fresh gales from S.W. and heavy N.W. swell; thence to Nov. 5th fresh S.W. to N.W. with lar-e swell, and thence to Yokohama fresh to moderate Easterly winds and squally. Arrived November 16th, at 12.15 a.m. Time 20 days, 16 hours and 30 min.

The Japanese steamer *Hiogo-Maru* reports:—Left Hakodate 6 p.m. 18th. Experienced light variable winds to Kinkasan hence to port fresh N.E. with fine weather throughout. Arrived 1.30 a.m. 16th. Passage 56 hours.

The British steamer *Strathmore* reports:—Left Shanghai noon 10th. Experienced strong N. E. to N. N. E. winds and overcast, throughout. Arrived 9.30 p.m. Passage 5 days and nine hours.

The Japanese steamer *Tokio-Maru* reports:—Left Kobe at 6 p.m. 15th inst. Experienced moderate N. to N.E. winds with fine weather throughout; passed a barque off Omisaki supposed to be the *Kanagawa-Maru*. Arrived at 3.30 a.m. 17th inst. Passage 36 hours.

The Japanese steamer *Takachiho-Maru* reports:—Left Kobe at 5 a.m. 15th. Experienced N. E. winds with fine weather throughout passed the *Kanagawa-Maru* between Omisaki and Rock Island. Arrived 9 p.m. 16th. Passage 39 hours.

The Japanese steamer *Shinagawa-Maru* reports:—Left Kobe 18th at midnight and put into Oosima 2 p.m. 14th on account of bad weather wind strong from S.E. with heavy swell. Left Oosima 7 a.m. 16th afterwards fresh N. W. winds to Rock Island hence to port moderate N. E. wind with cloudy weather. Arrived 11.30 p.m. 16th. Passed the *Kanagawa-Maru* westward of Rock Island 22 miles.

The Japanese barque *Kanagawa-Maru* reports:—Left Nagasaki 11th inst. Experienced N. and N.E. winds with moderate weather entire passage. Arrived at noon 18th inst. Passage 7½ days. The *Kinkun-Maru* was to leave same day for Yokohama.

The Japanese barque *Kinkun-Maru* reports:—Left Nagasaki on the 12th inst. Experienced N. to N. E. winds with moderate weather to Omisaki, hence to port strong N. W. winds, with unsettled weather. Arrived last evening (20th Nov.) Passage 9 day.

The Japanese steamer *Sumida-Maru* reports:—Left Kobe at 6 p.m. 19th inst. Experienced strong N.E. wind with cross sea to Cape Sima, when the wind shifted to N.W. blowing hard gale with threatening appearance and low. Barometer lowest reading 29.33. Arrived at 6 a.m. 21st inst. Passage 36 hours.

The British steamer *Oceanic* reports:—Left Hongkong Nov. 16th at 2 p.m. Had fresh monsoon up to North end of Formosa; thence to Yokosima, moderate and fresh Southerly and Westerly winds; thence to Rock Island fresh N.W. gales; thence to port light N.N. Westerly winds and fine.

The American ship *William J. Rotch* reports:—Left New York July 2nd. Passed the Cape of Good Hope Sept. 1st; entered Ollas Straits Oct. 9th and on the 21st entered the Pacific. Had fine weather until the 6th of Nov. off the Loo Choo Islands when we had bad weather from N.E. lasting to the 18th; since then have had N.W. winds, strong with high seas. Arrived last evening, 22nd inst. Passage 141 days.

## The Japan Gazette,

Established 1867.

THE ONLY INDEPENDENT JOURNAL  
PUBLISHED IN JAPAN.

THERE are two daily editions; one issued at about 7 p.m. and the other at 9 a.m. The *MARL SUMMARY* is a compilation, carefully edited and corrected, of all matter of importance recorded during the fortnight: this summary forming a useful half-yearly volume of 350 to 400 pages for reference on all questions of political, commercial, literary, and social interest in Japan accessible to foreigners. Current events are treated day by day in leading articles and editorial notes from the pens of several leading members of the community; the prime object of the proprietors being to make the newspaper a full and trustworthy epitome of the progress of affairs in this portion of Asia.

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YOKOHAMA, NOVEMBER 24TH, 1881.

## IMPORTS.

YARNS:—Sales reported amount to 6,241 Bales against 455 Bales for the preceding period; making a total for the year to date of 59,497 Bales—viz.: 37,361 Bales 16/24; 10,057 Bales 28/32; 1,562 Bales 38/42; 2,599 Bales doubled, and 7,918 Bales Indians.

**SUGAR:**—White has advanced 20 cents per picul all round; brown rather less, but firm.

**KEROSENE**.—Deliveries during past fortnight which have been large, have now fallen off and for the last week there have been no transactions.

**133 lbs. = 1 Picul.**

100 Dollars Mexican = 811 Silver Boas.

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## STAPLE EXPORTS.

**SILK.**—Our last report was dated 8th inst. Outwardly the dispute between the guild and foreign silk buyers has been compromised, but on terms which are generally looked upon as undignified for the present and likely to give rise to serious complications in the future.

Business cannot be said to have been generally resumed, prices demanded by sellers being higher than purchasers are willing to pay; such an event frequently occurs; but as far as can be ascertained transactions are likely to be hindered for some time to come by disputes between producers, middlemen, and the guild, as to who shall bear the losses incurred by the guild.

Reliable quotations cannot be given, sellers demand for strict No. 2½ Hanks (Mayebashi) \$600 to 610. Sinshiu Hanks 2½ \$620 to 630, and for best No. 2 Filatures \$710 to 720. It is presumable that a few parcels have been placed on easier terms, but to do a general business above terms would have to be submitted to, without any apparent signs of holders giving way.

Stock is heavy, being estimated at 9,700 shipping bales, consisting of 4,200 bales Hanks, 3,400 bales Filatures, 1,300 bales Kakedas, and 800 bales Oshius and other sorts.

TOTAL EXPORT FROM 1ST JULY TO DATE.										1880-81.	1881-82
London	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,836 Bales.	1,711 Bales.
France and Italy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,300 "	2,907 "
United States	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,500 "	2,067 "
										6,636 Bales.	6,685 Bales.

**TEA.**—A steady business has been carried on since the date of our last on the 8th. instant, and prices for Good Common to Good Medium classes for the moment show an advance of \$1.50 to \$2 per picul and these grades are in small supply. Settlements during the interval amount to 7,400 piculs, consisting mostly of very common trash; a few lots of fine teas have been placed at former rates and holders of these seem pretty firm.

Stocks immediately to hand in Yokohama are small, and native dealers report that producers up country are withholding supplies with a view to establish a higher scale of prices.

DESCRIPTION.	PRICES PER PICUL.	REMARKS.
SILK:—		
Mayebashi; 1½ @ 2 Hanks ... ..	... ..	All quotations nominal. (See above report.)
"      2      "      ... ..	... ..	
"      2½    "      ... ..	... ..	
"      3 and lower ... ..	... ..	
Kakedas; Good ... ..	... ..	
Filatures; Best ... ..	... ..	
"      Good ... ..	... ..	
Hamatsaki; Medium ... ..	... ..	
Sendai and Oshiu ... ..	... ..	
TEA:—		
Common... ..	\$ 9.00 and under.	Prices show an advance of \$1 to \$2 on last quotations.
Good Common ... ..	\$10.00 to \$14.00	
Medium ... ..	\$15.00 to \$19.00	
Good Medium ... ..	\$21.00 to \$24.00	
Fine ... ..	\$25.00 to \$29.00	
Finest ... ..	\$31.00 to \$35.00	
Choice ... ..	\$36.00 and upwards.	

## EXCHANGE.

The silk difficulty having been settled at last business has been resumed to a certain extent. Holders of silk asking prices totally disproportionate to home quotations, transactions have been very trifling. Exchange has undergone but little change. Silver closes at 51½ or ¼ above last quotation.

ON LONDON.—Bank	.....4 months' sight.....	3s. 9½d.
" "	do. ....Sight	3s. 8½d.
" "	Credits .....6 months' sight.....	3s. 9½d.
" "	do. ....4 do. ....	3s. 9½d.
" PARIS.—Bank	.....Sight	4.71
" "	Credits .....6 months' sight.....	4.86
" SHANGHAI.—Bank	.....Sight.....	78½
" "	Private .....10 days' sight .....	74

ON HONGKONG.—Bank	.....Sight.....	Par.
" "	Private .....10 days' sight.....	¼ % disc.
" SAN FRANCISCO.—Bank	.....Sight.....	90
" "	Private .....30 days' sight.....	91
" NEW YORK.—Bank	.....Sight.....	90
" "	Private .....30 days' sight .....	91

Paper currency, 172 per \$100.

# THE JAPAN GAZETTE,

A FORTNIGHTLY SUMMARY OF THE

POLITICAL, COMMERCIAL, LITERARY, AND SOCIAL EVENTS OF JAPAN.

VOL. XXVIII. No. 11.

YOKOHAMA, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1881.

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## Summary.

OUR last issue was dated Nov. 24th. for transmission by the O. & O. S.S. *Oceanic*. The following mails have since been received.

O. & O. S. *Belgie*, San Francisco, ..... Nov. 8 arrived Nov. 29  
M. M. S. *Messiah*, Marseilles, ..... Oct. 18 " " 20  
M. B. S. *Tokugawa Maru*, London, ..... Oct. 21 " " 25

And the following have been despatched:—

O. & O. S. *Oceanic*, San Francisco, ..... Nov. 25  
M. M. S. *Tonoi*, Marseilles, ..... " " 26  
P. & O. S. *Banda*, London, ..... Dec. 1

HIS Imperial Majesty the Mikado is a keen sportsman and takes an active interest in the turf. Under his immediate patronage, races came off at Toyama on the 27th. Nov. and at Mito on the 3rd. inst. which are said to have been a great success. In another column will be found a detailed report of the events at the first named place.

AN important item of news has transpired. There is the strongest reason for believing that the published text of the Tseng treaty of St. Petersburg is far from being a complete document. By supplementary clauses, the purport of which has been communicated to London, and perhaps other capitals as well, an offensive and defensive alliance, in certain specified cases, has been entered into between China and Russia, a fact of the utmost importance to Japan and one which must exercise a strong influence on the conduct of the future foreign relations of this country. Our information leads us to believe that, in addition to a mere nominal money indemnity, Russia has obtained great powers over China to be used at some convenient season; Russian aggression, foiled in India, is being turned in the direction of the extreme east. The tendency of nations with interests in common to unite for their protection is exemplified in the European concert, the understanding between the three emperors and the jealousy with which the European eastern question is guarded. How comes it then, that the two principal nations of the east should be divided instead of united? Have China and Japan no interests in common? Regarded in the most favourable light, a Russo-Chinese alliance can only be considered as something most suspiciously like a menace to this empire.

ALTHOUGH Shintoism is the ancient religion of Japan and the creed of a large section of its population, neither that nor any other has ever attained the dignity of being what, in western phrase, is called a "state church," "as by law established." A native contemporary publishes a rumour to the effect that a numerous signed memorial has been addressed to His Imperial Majesty the Mikado praying that he will proclaim Shintoism as the established national religion and declare Buddhism and Christianity to be foreign creeds. No reply has as yet been vouchsafed, but it is generally believed that the principle of toleration to all without especial favour to any will continue to be maintained. Many Buddhist divines are, however, assuming the rôle of "defenders of the faith," as far as preaching and lecturing are concerned.

THE spy system is not altogether unknown in Japan. Several native papers have commented on the number recently employed by the government for some mysterious purpose concerning which much curiosity has long prevailed. It is now announced that the "powers that be" do not place the most implicit confidence in the integrity of *fu* and *ken* officials and have determined to watch their proceedings. The latter are therefore probably about as uncomfortable as the Czar of Russia is popularly supposed to be. It is not pleasant to know that spies are hovering

about one, particularly when conscience suggests that there is good reason for their presence.

COUNTERFEIT paper money continues to be daily detected and the forgery has assumed a new form. By some ingenious process notes are frequently split in two whereby the sharpers are enabled to pass them twice over. A native contemporary says the government are keeping their eyes open and that they are by no means inclined to credit their own subjects with such consummate skill. In their opinion none but a cunning foreigner could possibly display such questionable talent.

A FAREWELL dinner was given by the foreign consuls at this port to Mr. Nomura Yasushi, late prefect of Kanagawa and present postmaster general, on the evening of the 27th. inst. which proved a most successful and agreeable entertainment. The chair was occupied by Gen. Van Buren, U. S. consul general. A full report of the proceedings will be found in another column.

If imitation is the sincerest flattery the Japanese ought to feel themselves highly honoured. The Korean government having long heard of the fame of their naval and military systems, and having sent men to "see whether the things which they had seen and heard were so or not," have at length resolved to adopt them. The Korean ambassador is endeavouring to engage the services of several officers as instructors.

THE Kaitakushi affair does not seem to have been definitely settled after all. Conflicting rumours continue to be published, the latest of which is that General Kuroda has proposed to continue it as at present organized, but on a decreased expenditure of 600,000 *yen*. The cabinet is reported to be discussing the matter and many *sangi* are said to be in favour of the proposal.

THE native papers have not fared well during the past fortnight. Several of them have been heavily fined and the editor of the *Toboku Mai Nichi Shinbun* has been sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment. How, or in what way they have offended we are unable to say; probably they have been expressing their opinions rather freely and have been a trifle too communicative in the way of disclosing unpleasant truths.

THE establishment of a new central bank has been warmly disowned. The scheme is said to have been so secretly planned that even a great many officials of the bank bureau never knew it was in contemplation until they read of it in the newspapers. Mr. Kato, superintendent of the bank bureau, is said to be the original proposer.

THE weather has been very cold during the last few days and snow is reported to have fallen in several parts of the country.

## Leading Articles.

### APPROACHING REVISION OF THE TREATIES.

IN April 1879 H. B. M. minister addressed the British consuls in Japan on the subject of certain propositions for treaty revision, and expressed a wish to learn the views and opinions of British merchants on the points mentioned in his circular letter. Several commercial bodies and individual merchants tendered their opinions in response to the invitation; and there, so far as the foreign community is concerned, the matter rested. In July 1880 a contemporary published an English translation of a draft treaty of friendship and commerce between Japan and foreign countries, presented by the government of the former to the representatives of the latter. So much indignation was expressed at this alleged premature disclosure of a diplomatic note, that all who desire to preserve the outward show of courtesy towards the government of Japan have formally ignored, and do still formally ignore, the public existence of the document in question; nor has any official communication yet been made to foreign merchants here of the nature of its provisions. Some surprise is consequently expressed that chambers of commerce and mercantile committees in Great Britain should have been furnished with the "correspondence printed for the use of the foreign office respecting the revision of the treaties with Japan, and the draft of the treaty and customs tariff proposed by the Japanese government," while residents here primarily interested in the matter at issue are left to gather information from, and form opinions upon, not the treaty propositions themselves but the reports of others far less conversant with the general subject than they are. This is not as it should be, for much could be said here of vast importance to Japan and doubly valuable to the government desirous of ascertaining, as nearly as possible, the aspirations and wishes of those who have been actively engaged in commerce from the opening of the ports, and are most competent to tender the practical suggestions and advice which even the most experienced statesman cannot afford to despise.

Before referring to the reports made in England on the draft treaty and tariff, we will take the liberty to deal with the general question from a new stand-point. Throughout the last few years the revision of the treaties has been used as a vehicle for bringing forward the wrongs and sufferings of the Japanese government and people. The former, deprived of their sovereign rights, are but little better off than the latter deprived of their commercial rights; and the declared cause of all is the perversity of foreign powers and the exactions and arbitrariness of foreign merchants: but in the whole of the period we have never seen or heard any newspaper or commercial association outside the settlements themselves give the slightest consideration to the grievances under which foreign residents labour in their weary and daily more hopeless efforts to improve their business relations with the Japanese people. If we endeavour to recapitulate some of the more important here we do so solely in the hope that when the demands of Japan are put forward the Japanese, not foreign, ministers will, of their own motion, take action to

ameliorate the onerous and unfair conditions under which foreigners enjoy the hospitality of this nation.

About three thousand respectable foreigners, the majority of superior education and position, are permitted to reside within the limits of the treaty ports, and in the capital and interior when engaged on government service. Beyond those narrow limits they cannot go for any purpose of trade; nor can they reside in private houses beyond the settlements for purposes of pleasure without being subjected to an intolerable police surveillance. In those ports only are consuls permitted to reside; and there only can be administered those foreign laws which, founded on centuries of experience, and admittedly indispensable for the protection of men not wholly slaves, are so hateful and offensive to the Japanese that even the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* has demanded the submission of foreigners to Japanese laws while declaring, in the same breath, that those laws are intolerable to its own people. Within the limits of three settlements, Yokohama, Kobe, and Nagasaki, three hundred and sixty foreign firms, competing with each other as is the custom in healthy commercial centres, conduct an annual trade value \$60,000,000. The framers of the present treaties had but an imperfect knowledge of the requirements of commerce; but recognizing the importance of free intercourse stipulations were inserted guaranteeing to Japanese people of all ranks the right of ingress and egress to and from these settlements for the purposes of trade. Had this stipulation been observed, even in a modified degree, a larger, healthier, more profitable trade, and in every respect a better understanding would have arisen: that stipulation has, however, been steadily ignored; not by the government, who we believe are animated by no desire to evade any treaty responsibilities, but by cliques and combinations of merchants more powerful or more influential than the general body of native traders. These combinations or guilds, opposed in every sense to the true principles of political economy and to the spirit of Japanese commercial reform, have assumed and continue to exercise an authority which is successfully imposed on the ignorance and weakness of the people. At the present day if a consumer wishes to purchase useful imported goods, raw material in fact, he cannot enter the settlements and deal directly with foreigners as is provided by the treaty; he must employ one of the combination brokers. These last are not above a dozen in number; they band together and fix the prices for foreigners' goods, compelling the latter to sell at their assessment, there being no open competition among the consumers who could, if permitted to deal directly, purchase their goods at a less mean price than they pay under the present system where the broker alone benefits. In the sale of silk, tea, and other valuable exports, the position is reversed. On all sides foreigners are competing to sell, Japanese combining to buy imports: Japanese coöperate in the sale, foreigners compete in the purchase, of exports. This was the position contemplated as a possibility of confining trade to the limits of one or more ports; and it was sought to be obviated by the insertion of those clauses to which we have alluded, and which are persistently violated. These are facts the MIKADO's ministers should investigate; for before a new treaty can be negotiated these complaints must go before the foreign representatives to return to the government in the form of grave and earnest

remonstrance. How is it possible, will be the question, that we can enter into another treaty which fails to deal with this dangerous abuse of the existing pact; and which is to contain no stipulation for the future freedom of trade intercourse? Is it not in the power of the government to control the action of the persons who violate the essential spirit of the existing compact? Have the government tried to do so? What can be the answers to these questions? Until the government issues a notification throughout the length and breadth of the land to the effect that, all by-laws or rules of native commercial associations, limiting the number of persons who may have direct commercial intercourse with foreigners, are illegal and void, there can be no answer; the government by their inaction now sanction the illegality. A notification to that effect is a right foreigners are entitled to ask from the government of Japan; for it is obvious that so long as a mere handful of Japanese brokers can draw a cordon round the settlements, and limit the number and select the class of natives who may deal with foreigners, the letter and spirit of the treaties, which are essentially treaties of commerce, are violated. The government may declare that this state of things arises from independent commercial action, which they can neither control nor change. In such case the treaty should be renewed with the monopolists, not with the government, the latter being confessedly powerless to carry out its most essential provisions. In the propositions which have been presented to the home chambers of commerce there is little allusion to this systematic violation of the present treaties; and while foreigners are still to be rigorously confined to the limits of the treaty ports there are no provisions which shall enable them to successfully resist these powerful combinations, and enter into a sound and healthy trade with producers and consumers without the compulsory intervention of middlemen, combinations, and monopolies. Actually, the situation of foreigners is to be made more humiliating under the new treaty than under the old. The Japanese government claim the right to establish diplomatic or consular agents at any ports or towns in foreign countries, while foreign diplomatic and consular agents may only reside at the half dozen petty ports opened to trade in Japan: certain municipal jurisdiction over foreigners is to be conceded to Japan: the ports of the world are to be open to Japan while her own remain closed: the coast trade, even between the treaty ports, is to be solely Japanese: import duties are to be levied on the "fair trade" system, and on a proposed scale which will certainly re-act upon the common raw material which is the chief import into Japan: harbour and other dues are to be levied without any stated limit, at the option of Japan: the stipulation intended to secure freedom of commercial intercourse with the people as some compensation for the confinement of foreigners to the treaty ports, and without which trade must be a mere farce directed by the caprice or means of the monopolists, is to be omitted in future: every paragraph of these propositions is an advantage to be gained by Japan, while foreign nations are to receive, as concessions on the part of Japan, the abolition of export dues and the opening of one or two new ports to foreign commerce and residence! These two so-called concessions are valueless. The abolition of export dues is a matter of pro-



found indifference to foreigners who buy here on the basis of value at the intended ports of destination. The opening of new ports means merely a division and increase of the expense of foreign residence, enhanced competition among foreign merchants, and a closer monopoly among the Japanese. In a recent communication to the government H. B. M. *chargé d'affaires* referred to the benefits which would accrue from the opening of the silk districts in the vicinity of Tokio to foreign merchants. Such a concession, under fair and proper conditions, would be of incalculable value to Japan: combinations would be broken up; a large trade would follow, and the country would materially benefit. A concession of this sort cannot, however, be hoped for unless partial or complete submission is made to Japanese jurisdiction. If such submission is to be made extra-territorial rights will have to be given up almost entirely; and the whole country must be opened to foreign trade and residence. Of such an event what will be the result? Thinking Japanese should put aside their prejudices to find a suitable answer. What has ever been the result of the influx to a country of a race mentally and physically superior to the aborigines?—*Dec. 4.*

### THE CENTRAL BANK.

THE establishment of the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho was generally believed to be part of an attempt to supply the treasury with the specie absolutely necessary to prevent national discredit. The government require annually at least six to seven millions of silver for use abroad; and the incoming does not exceed two and one half millions derived from customs duties. That portion of the balance of the current cash account, erroneously styled "reserve fund," consisting of specie is reduced to a mere nominal sum; and the finance department cannot acquire more specie on the market by purchase, for, apart from the ruinous depreciation which would follow the appearance of the treasury as a seller of government paper, there are no purchasers at any rate of exchange for any sum beyond the amounts which daily change hands for the mutual convenience of traders.

This situation has been contemplated for some years past, and the approach of a crisis would be hailed with satisfaction as a means of relief, and for the prospect it would hold out of the adoption of a sounder financial policy. Yet another attempt is to be made to carry out in a different manner the primary object of the silk combination, which clearly was to acquire the producers' property for paper currency, and to convert that property into specie for the use either of the few monopolists or of the treasury. This is a fair inference from the published rules of the association, which provided for advances in paper against silk sent in for sale; the realisation of the specie proceeds of sales into paper; and the payment of the balance to the producer also in paper, the specie itself going to the government coffers for export or into the pockets of the disinterested owners of the Rengo. This attempt, however, temporarily failed; and the project which was to provide some indispensable specie also came to a sudden end. The government, the public have been assured, had no connection whatever with the Rengo. It was a purely private and independent undertaking; and the promoters

only were to absorb the specie wherewith to "rig" the exchange market at their sovereign will and pleasure. How many Japanese or foreigners accepted this denial in the sense in which it was meant was a problem unanswerable, and would have remained so had not a new and more palpable attempt been made to attain the very object the Rengo failed to achieve.

Whoever the financial advisers of the government may be, they must be singularly blind to and indifferent of public opinion; or, perhaps, they consider their really shallow artifices too deep to be seen through by the people upon whom they are imposed. If this were not the case the establishment of the new Central Bank (the very title is suspicious) would not have been made public as has been done in the *Mai Nichi Shinbun*, with those particulars of its constitution which challenge instant attention. This bank or financial association is to enjoy a capital of 20,000,000 yen, 15,000,000 of which is to be advanced directly by the treasury; while the remaining 5,000,000 will consist of the refund of advances made by the government to the Specie and Second National banks.

The whole of the capital will therefore be government money; and the state is to become a banker. The capital being wholly in paper the object of the undertaking is not clear, for, although there are to be six branches (not agencies) in Yokohama, Kobe, London, Paris, New York, and San Francisco, it can scarcely be expected that remittances of paper money to any of these branches will answer the purposes of the government or the business of banking. There is, so the promoters of this affair declare, a necessity for a Japanese bank to assist Japanese merchants to recover their commercial rights; and to assist direct exportation in order that the native should earn for himself those rich profits which now all fall into the hands of foreigners. "Direct trade," a term unknown in any other country, is perfectly legitimate; and so long as it is fairly conducted no complaint will be made: on the contrary, no one would have demurred if the silly "threat" held out in the *Japan Mail* of shipping silk to Europe during the existence of the monopoly had been carried into effect, in which case the producers would have had the losses and experience, foreign countries the silk, and the government the specie proceeds. Direct trade, in essentially Japanese hands here and abroad, can only be carried on by means of Japanese banks, for foreign banks "like not the security;" or they lend themselves to the plot to deprive Japanese of this "banking right." To supply this want, the Central Bank has been formed. When the price offered by foreign shippers for any description of produce is below the market holders may ship on their own account, and receive advances (in paper) from the Central Bank on an invoice which takes the market price as a basis. The proceeds of sales will, of course, be applied to the draft against the shipment, and the balance will be accounted for here by or to the bank in Tokio. For the satisfaction of those who may be puzzled to understand how the appropriation of the proceeds by the government could be carried on without diminishing the capital here in proportion, the following hypothetical case will serve as an illustration. B, a foreign merchant, offers A, a Japanese broker, \$600 per bale for 100 bales of silk: A asks \$650, which is refused. A then ships direct, drawing upon C, the bank, for \$65,000 at 170= yen 110,500. The silk is sold in London for

(evading the complication involved in a loss) say, \$70,000 at 175=122,500 yen. The treasury here at once marks off a payment of 122,500 yen of foreign liability, and hands that sum to C, who accounts to A for 12,000 yen surplus proceeds. Irrespective of the price the silk may realise abroad the government will receive all the specie, which will be paid directly into their own bank; and the consequence will be that little if any will return to this country, and certainly none of it will re-enter circulation. The influence of this direct government trading upon commerce generally will be visible in a few months. Silk and tea are the chief products employed by Japanese to barter away for those imports which are indispensable; they have always maintained a certain saleable value. Under the new conditions, producers who draw through the Central Bank, instead of selling here or shipping direct through private hands with advances in specie, will find themselves deprived of articles which are really money and provided with a sham substitute which is not money: the import trade will suffer accordingly: for every thousand dollars received by the Central Bank under these conditions, a diminution to the same extent will take place in importation, until the ambitious aspirations of certain deluded political economists are realised in a favourable "balance of trade"—all exports and no imports.

We shall revert to this subject from time to time. Every thinking man must be struck with this new element of danger to the future of Japanese trade, and we mistake the government if, when the current of public opinion becomes known, they do not discard a projected undertaking which no honest man can recommend. Experience will make even fools wise; and we are entirely mistaken in our estimate of Japanese acuteness if native merchants can be deceived by this seemingly specious and empirical scheme, which is one of a number of others which seem to be preferred to sound and healthy reform without regard to the inevitable disastrous consequences.—*Dec. 3.*

### Miscellaneous Articles.

#### PROTECTION FROM FIRE.

IN two articles embodying the views of Mr. HERT with regard to the best form of appliance for rendering the most efficient aid in event of fire in the foreign settlement of Yokohama, sufficient has been said in support of the principle that is pithily embodied in the old proverb, "a stitch in time saves nine." Two or three correspondents, addressing contemporary journals, have apparently failed to comprehend the object for which Mr. HERT is contending; and they have not hesitated to impute to Mr. HERT and this journal interested personal motives unworthy of the writers and unfitted for introduction into a matter of such great importance to our general well being. In all questions of this sort animated discussion is desirable; so long as it is conducted in a manly, outspoken way it will always be heartily welcome; and if "Fireman" and others are actuated by those disinterested motives they refuse to credit us with they will not hesitate to give dispassionate consideration to the schemes of a man whose years of practical experience and

later theoretical study entitle his opinions to be received with respect if not with gratitude.

Those who have resided in Yokohama for the past ten years can bear testimony to the general inefficiency of our appliances to check the spread of fire. The fire brigade is efficient as regards its formation, system, and *personnel*; in every respect but one—the readiness with which it can procure water. Its members perform much hard work, and display an indifference to personal danger worthy of a far better cause; and they receive little if any public thanks. The settlement is provided with about one-tenth of the fire wells its extent demands. There is no municipal government or police control of any kind. The conditions, taken collectively, are as favourable as they can well be to the spread of fire if that much dreaded enemy gets a start of one little quarter of an hour. Past experience shows us that in every such case fire has had its own way, and has satiated its lust for destruction, burning itself out for want of more material to devour, rarely, if ever, giving way before the efforts of our brigades. Nor is the cause far to seek. The construction of the buildings in which we are compelled by natural laws to reside, renders them in the highest degree inflammable; and unless a fire is instantly encountered nothing can prevent the total destruction of the building in which it originates, while generally surrounding premises are involved in the calamity. Too often the cause of this has been want of water; equally often the cause has been the unavoidable lapse of time between the discovery of the fire and the first stream of water. On many occasions a garden pump used within the first fifteen minutes could have saved a loss of a quarter of a million dollars, and helped to lessen the excessive rates levied upon the community as a body by the guardians of our property, the fire insurance companies, who evidently regard this settlement as the most dangerous in which they do business, while its foreign population quietly submits to, and is content to pay an extra tax of one or two hundred thousand dollars annually, for the stigma. Fully alive to the conservative tendencies of the place, we approach the question of reform of any of our obsolete or useless customs with that real diffidence which long experience of the apathy of the community teaches; nevertheless, having carefully considered Mr. HERT's arguments, we have little hesitation in advocating the adoption, partially if not wholly, of the scheme he recommends.

If a map of the settlement be referred to the difficulty of procuring an efficient supply of water appears insuperable should a fire occur at any distance beyond a hundred yards from the bund or creek; yet it is this very difficulty Mr. HERT disposes of. His plan, succinctly stated, is this. He will station, in eligible situations throughout the town, and on both sides of the creek, about twenty-four to thirty hand engines; constructing, in suitable places on the water side, wooden platforms sloping down to the bottom where an engine, or two or more as required, may be used as feed pumps to furnish a copious supply of water at any stage of the tide, and to any distance limited only by the length of hose available. A drilled body of Japanese firemen will be retained; while a large force of irregulars will also be instructed in those duties for which they have a natural aptitude. Here we will use Mr. HERT's words:—"Assuming a fire to break out at No. 66 (where, in December last,

much precious time was lost before any water was available), or in any similar situation, I am prepared to give a material guarantee that in less than ten minutes after the alarm has been sounded, proper signals to be arranged for direction or location of fire, I will have two continuous streams of water, each one centimetre in diameter and capable of reaching seventy feet elevations, in steady play. A few extra minutes must elapse before engines at more distant stations can be brought up; but in less than twenty minutes I will undertake to have six and, if the fire is of a threatening character, twelve uninterrupted streams of water bearing either upon the burning building or protecting the surrounding property. For six streams I should require twelve hand engines such as those used on the 18th. instant: three would be placed in the creek, three at the water side to propel the water along the levels, and six at the scene of the fire. Each supply engine will provide water for two hose; and I am quite indifferent to distance in all other respects than in regard to the extra time required to lay the hose; much of which I propose to save by establishing several stations from which water may be obtainable, all to be numbered and apportioned to the various sections of the town. The great similarity of my engines to the common Japanese fire engine renders their working a matter of comparative ease to the most ignorant native: but as twelve engines would not require more than eighty-four men I anticipate no lack of skilled labour, while of volunteers there will be abundance. With *speedy* help of this kind *always* available, no fire should have any chance of spreading; while in the majority of cases it should be suppressed in its inception. In ordinary cases, therefore, the danger would be at an end before the steam fire engine had its machinery in moving order: in other cases can it be doubted that two streams of water within ten minutes, and six within twenty minutes, would not be of the greatest value in the extinction of fire taken at its first outbreak, and in the protection and isolation of surrounding buildings? while the burning mass itself, if beyond the control of the smaller hose, might be left to the more powerful jet of water the steam engine could throw upon it. To undertake a service of this sort efficiently I must have support. I cannot supply engines, hose, and firemen at my private expense. The first cost is not large; the subsequent outlay for repair will be trifling; wages, as no engineer is required, will be limited to a few regular watchmen and native captains of divisions; the rest will depend upon the number of fires; with a moderate annual subscription, and whether free from fires or not, a few years should provide an amount capable of being funded to form a continuous reserve for the maintenance of a competent superintendent and an efficient brigade of firemen. If foreigners would confide more of the actual duties of firemen to their Japanese *confièrès*, and devote more of their attention to drawing a cordon round the burning building to ensure freedom from interruption and a clear passage for the engines and workers, they would render efficient service of a truly valuable character; and there would be much less confusion arising from divided command than at present. I desire that my motives may not be misconstrued. Having been an unwilling witness of the awful suffering inflicted upon the poor of this country

by disastrous and impoverishing conflagrations, my attention has been seriously turned to the study of the best means of checking these destructive fires; and if the appliances I now recommend answer our expectations the Japanese government, who are never backward in adopting measures beneficial to the people, may see fit to extend the system to all large cities and towns.

"It is no part of my purpose to decry steam fire engines. That they have done, and will again do good service cannot be denied; but I submit that in this place, where the highest building does not exceed fifty feet; where the progress of a fire is so rapid that the time required to get up steam is a fatal objection to the engine which absolutely depends upon its use; where we have had frequent experiences of the difficulty, the impossibility of getting even a partial supply of water; where the style of building is such that if the fire can be isolated it will burn itself out within an hour: in this place, and under such conditions, we require a means of promptly meeting a fire wherever it may occur, and this independently of distance from water or the state of the tide. A steam fire engine costs a large sum of money, nearly equal to the cost of twenty of the hand engines; it requires an engineer at a salary equivalent to the annual wages of fifty native firemen, and when an emergency arises either water cannot be had, or the mischief has been done before its power is available.

"I have invited the community to express their opinion on the relative merits of the two systems. If a committee is nominated I will challenge the fire brigade to a contest at any time, day or night, at any place, at any state of the tide, and shall be content to abide by the decision of the committee as to whether a sufficiently equipped and properly organized brigade of hand engines such as I suggest, is not a more efficient and invariably trustworthy protection against fire than the system which now exists under the name of the Yokohama Fire Brigade."

Mr. HERT speaks with modesty and good sense. His plan is eminently one bearing its own recommendation. At the close of the year subscriptions to the present fire brigade will become due, and before that time arrives we ask the community to give full consideration to the present and proposed systems, or a combination of both, and render an impartial decision in the premises.

This is a question of so much importance that we venture to express a hope that like other undertakings intended for the public good it will not be received with contemptuous silence and indifference. The present unprotected state of our settlement with regard to fire is a disgrace to us all.—Nov. 26.

SEVERAL native papers have commented on the number of spies employed by the government for some mysterious purpose, concerning which curiosity has long been on the tenter-hooks. It is now announced that the "powers that be" do not place the most implicit confidence in the integrity of *fu* and *ken* officials and have accordingly adopted the above means of watching their proceedings. The latter are therefore probably about as uncomfortable as the Czar of Russia is popularly supposed to be. It is not pleasant to know that spies are hovering about one, particularly when, as may be the case with some of them:—

Remorse stings deeper, and relentless conscience  
Pours more of gall into the bitter cup  
Of their severe repentance,

## Reports.

### TOYAMA RACES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Postponements are generally not successful in racing but the Toyama meeting on Sunday (27th. Nov.) proved an exception to the rule. The weather was beautiful and the company brilliant while the racing was quite up to the average and the Yokohama bivism who mustered strong must have been satisfied with the day's outing.

The Mikado arrived about 1 p.m. in his usual style with a guard of lancers. The princes who arrived a little earlier waited on the lawn for His Majesty and ascended to the balcony after him. The jockeys for the first race (a scratch) being all in readiness proceedings at once commenced, and after a good scramble a little black pony called *Yokosku* turned up the winner. The programme as below followed and, good time being kept, enabled Yokohama visitors to catch the 5.15 train. The band of the marines enlivened affairs by playing at intervals between the races.

After the third race a little excitement was caused by the two judges coming to words and blows and having a "little mill" to themselves in the box.

The jockey who piloted the winner in the last race showed the best form we have yet seen in a native, riding with good judgment and in splendid form.

#### 1ST RACE.—FOR JAPANESE PONIES.

<i>Hidan</i> ... ..	1
<i>Matsuo</i> ... ..	2

5 ran

#### 2ND RACE.—FOR JAPANESE PONIES.

<i>Kamakura</i> ... ..	1
<i>Katerfelto</i> ... ..	2

3 ran

#### 3rd RACE.—HALF-BRED HORSES. 1½ Miles.

<i>Ha-ku-un</i> ... ..	1
<i>Bon René</i> ... ..	2
<i>Kosakura</i> ... ..	3

A very good race, but the little cream being in best condition stayed the longest and won by three lengths.

#### 4TH RACE.—FOR JAPANESE PONIES.

<i>Kamakura</i> ... ..	1
<i>Ikadzushi</i> ... ..	2
<i>Yamabuki</i> ... ..	3

Three ran a hard race from the last half to the turn which *Ikadzushi* came round all right, but soon after came to a stand and thus allowed *Kamakura* to win by a length.

#### 5TH RACE.—FOR JAPANESE PONIES ridden by members who had never won a race.

<i>Katerfelto</i> ... ..	1
<i>Miyaoka</i> ... ..	2
<i>Hiden</i> ... ..	3

This race was great amusement and by want of judgment in the jockeys of *Miyaoka* and *Hiden* let the worst horse, *Katerfelto*, win. These jockeys started to race as soon as the flag fell and at the turn and shot then bolt when the winner who, at one time was thirty yards behind, came up fresh and passed them winning by three lengths.

#### 6TH RACE.—FOR HALF BRED HORSES. Once round, about three quarter of a mile.

<i>Kosakura</i> ... ..	1
<i>Bon René</i> ... ..	2

The black looked in best condition but *Bon René* was favourite. They lay side by side nearly all the way, *Bon René* got his head in front but could not retain this advantage *Kosakura* winning by half a length. *Bon René's* jockey lost his temper and savagely struck him over the head.

#### 7TH RACE.—CONSOLATION FOR JAPANESE PONIES.

<i>Miyaoka</i> ... ..	1
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Out of 14 entries 7 started and after one false they got away very well together the winner lying nicely in the front rank to and round the turn when she (beautifully ridden) ran away next the rails and won easily by two lengths.

### BANQUET IN HONOUR OF THE EX-PREFECT OF KANAGAWA.

The farewell dinner given by the foreign consuls at this port to Mr. Nomura Yasushi, late Prefect of Kanagawa and present Postmaster General, at the Grand Hotel on the evening of the 27th Nov. proved a most successful and agreeable entertainment. There were present the consular officials of France, Germany, Great Britain, the United States, Russia, Italy, Spain, China, Belgium, The Netherlands, Switzerland, Peru and Hawaii, and as guests Mr. Nomura Yasushi, Mr. Oki Morikata, present kenrei of Kanagawa, Mr. Motono Morimichi, superintendent of customs, Mr. Nakamura Motoyoshi, late president of the Yokohama Saibansho, now a judge of the Daishinin, Mr. Kawasuki Gohachi, president of the Saibansho, Mr. Osborn, foreign secretary of the kenrei, and Mr. Loo Kwan secretary of the Chinese consulate. After discussing the very excellent dinner the company were requested to see their glasses filled to the brim when General Van Buren, chairman of the consular body, rose and proposed the health of His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Japan, which, of course, was drunk with all the honours.

The next toast, which was also proposed by the chairman, was to the guest of the evening, and substantially in the following words:—

Gentlemen: My colleagues have imposed upon me the very agreeable duty of proposing to you the health of our distinguished guest, Mr. Nomura Yasushi. For many years Mr. Nomura has been known to us officially and personally as the Prefect of this ken, and during the time he has thus been the chief representative of his government here he has been universally recognized as an honest, earnest, industrious, efficient, and able officer. [applause]. His duties have been varied and onerous, but he has never failed to give to each and all his best attention. We have differed from him on more than one occasion and I have myself had a number of differences of opinion with him in which both of us have taken occasion to express our opinions freely. This is no occasion to discuss such differences or to seek a verdict as to who was right or wrong; but it is just the occasion to express the sentiment which I am sure is entertained by the entire consular body that, in whatever Mr. Nomura has officially done or said he has been actuated by a high desire to serve the best interest of his country, her government and people.

[great applause]. And that his services have been duly appreciated by his government is found in the fact of his promotion to the high and important position of Postmaster-general of the empire. Mr. Nomura [addressing him], we toast you, Sir, as the long time and well known governor of this ken; we drink to you as a high official of the imperial government, but best of all, we drink your health in that more cherished title of our esteemed and honoured friend.

This toast was drunk amid great enthusiasm. After silence had been restored Mr. Nomura replied in Japanese, the interpretation being most felicitously given by Mr. Osborn, as follows;—

"In thanking you for the compliment you have just paid me, I would express the pleasure I feel in accepting to-night this farewell hospitality of the board of consuls. For this friendly demonstration I am deeply grateful. As I look back on the six years I have served as governor of this ken, I fully appreciate the friendly treatment I have always received at your hands. How fortunate I have been in passing this time without committing any grave error. The experience I have gained during these six years of official service will be of the utmost value to me, and for the advantage I derive from it, surely am I indebted to your kindness. It is, I dare say, an uncommon occurrence in any part of the world, that so many should be brought, for so long a period, in constant intercourse with each other, not only without dissensions, but terminating so pleasantly. My official career at this port does terminate most pleasantly, inasmuch as I have the gratification of standing beside this richly laden table—the first time, I think, that any governor of this ken has been so sumptuously feasted in retiring from his post—an honour I could not fail to appreciate. This mark of good will on your part encourages me to continue, wherever my lot may be cast, in the straight path I have hitherto endeavoured to pursue, and in so doing, remember your kindness and courtesy, the memory of which will be cherished by me as long as life exists. It is always hard to part without emotion, nor can I now find words to express my feelings. I wish to drink yet one more cup with you, and that to the health and happiness of the consuls—my friends."

These remarks were received with frequent expressions of pleasure by all, and at their conclusion were greeted with applause. The next toast was proposed by the Swiss Consul-General, Mr. Wolf, who said:—

Gentlemen:—I have now much pleasure in asking you to drink to the health of the new kenrei, Mr. Oki Morikata.

After the eloquent address of my friend opposite it would be useless for me to make any attempt at a speech, the more so as I am rather at a disadvantage as compared with the General who, in proposing Mr. Nomura's health, could speak of facts, whereas Mr. Oki, being as yet new to our circle, I can only give expression to hopes and expectations for the future.

I shall therefore confine myself to tendering to Mr. Oki, on behalf of my colleagues, our most cordial welcome, to assure him that we on our part shall do all in our power to facilitate the burdensome duties of his office; and hope that our relations with him will always be as pleasant and agreeable as they were with his predecessor, and that he may occupy his new office for many years to come in good health and prosperity.

Mr. Wolf's sentiments met with the warmest reception and Mr. Oki replied :—

"I tender you my sincere thanks for the honour you have done me and above all for your kind wishes which I need hardly assure you are fully appreciated by me."

This was rendered in English and elicited most friendly expressions from all sides. Mr. Zappe, German consul, then rose and said :—

"A duty devolves upon me, which I shall perform with much pleasure; it is that of proposing for your acceptance the toast of the health of the superintendent of customs, Mr. Motono Morimichi, a gentleman who has occupied that responsible and in many respects difficult official post for many years to the advantage of His Majesty's government and with satisfaction to all who have experienced his fairness and urbanity.

When Mr. Motono's turn for promotion comes our appreciation and recognition of his deserts will be tempered only by the regret we shall feel at the loss of so valuable and popular a local officer.

It is unnecessary I should waste words in further discoursing on his merits for they are unquestioned; they are admitted by everybody, and therefore I propose, gentlemen, with all sincerity and good feeling, the health of Mr. Motono Morimichi."

Mr. Motono, through Mr. Osborn, replied as follows :—

"Thank you gentlemen for the hearty manner in which you have drunk to my health. In answer to your kind remarks about the slight services I have been able to render to the community, I can only say, had it not been for your countenance and assistance it would indeed have been difficult for me to merit the praises so kindly uttered by Mr. Zappe. I regret that my slight knowledge of English precludes my saying all that I should like to on this occasion."

The next toast was given in French by Mr. Carcano, consul for Italy, who said :—

Gentlemen :—I have the honour of proposing a toast which I am persuaded will be received by you with the same favour as the others which have been put forward by our colleagues.

I invite you, gentlemen, to drink to the healths of Messrs. Nakamura and Kawasaki, the first ex-president of the Yokohama Saibancho, and the second his successor.

These two gentlemen have more than a title to our sympathies. Mr. Nakamura has, during the time he has been president of the Saibancho, preserved with us all the most amicable intercourse and the most cordial relations. His honourable successor, Mr. Kawasaki, has had the kindness of assuring us that he will, on entering on his functions, follow the line traced by his predecessor. Both, through their judicial positions, which are analogous to the highest branches of our official duties, are our dear colleagues and as such I would salute them. In drinking to the healths of Messrs. Nakamura and Kawasaki I include also the Japanese magistracy. Permit me to remind you, my dear colleagues, that the judicial profession has been, in all times and with all nations, considered a most elevated and noble one.

*Arma cedant togæ*, said the Romans, and this principle has been always and universally accepted and followed. The magistracy is the thermometer of civilization, and of the culture and civilization of nations, and we may be proud of belonging to such a noble profession.

If at some time, in our relations, we see this principle forgotten or unrecognized, if, perhaps, solely on account of our judicial positions we are obliged to sacrifice our *amour propre*, let us recall, dear colleagues, that it is only justice to consider often, as extenuating circumstances, the imperfections in human nature.

I therefore drink to the healths of Messrs. Nakamura and Kawasaki.

This was responded to by Judge Nakamura for himself and Judge Kawasaki; whose remarks Mr. Osborn rendered in English in these words :—

"I am much moved by your kindness and flattering remarks. For the satisfaction I have been fortunate enough to give I am indebted to you gentlemen. Though I am now transferred to the capital, still it is not a long way off and I hope that I may often yet have the pleasure of meeting you. I trust that if ever I can serve you you will call upon me so to do, and that you will extend to my successor the same consideration I have ever received at your hands."

The remarks of Messrs. Zappe and Carcano and the replies met with the most cordial reception. This concluding the regular toasts, the chairman said :—

"No occasion of this kind can be considered complete without a toast to the ladies, and I have finally managed to overcome the natural modesty of that member of the consular body especially distinguished for his gallantry, and have prevailed upon him to propose the toast. After this allusion to our colleague I know it is not necessary to name him."

Mr. Jouslain, the French consul, who was greeted with shouts of merriment and applause, said :—

Gentlemen: We are not in France it is true but we are, however, in the house of a Frenchman and under the circumstances I wish, in my double quality of an old bachelor and a *français né galant* to be allowed to propose a toast to the ladies of the honourable gentlemen here present, whose absence from our feast we extremely regret; and I beg that Mr. Aranguren [the Spanish consul], who by his youth and graces of person so commends himself to the smiles of the fair sex, will respond to the sentiment I have had the honour to present.

The response of Mr. Aranguren was rendered in so low a tone that his words, greatly to our regret, were not caught.

After sometime longer spent in friendly exchanges of sentiment the company broke up, the universal judgment being that the evening had been in every respect a most enjoyable one.

THE *Meikio Shinshi* publishes a rumour to the effect that some members of the government have addressed a memorial to His Imperial Majesty the Mikado praying that he will proclaim Shintoism as the established national religion and declare Buddhism and Christianity as foreign creeds. The object of the memorialists is to strengthen the cause of the Imperial house and to check the rights and freedom of the people. Their Excellencies Saigo and Matsukata are strongly in favour of the scheme which will probably be carried into effect. Our contemporary considers the rumour to be unreliable, but even if it should prove to be true, he says Buddhists have nothing to fear as they are well able to defend their faith against all attacks.

## Correspondence.

### FIRE INSURANCE ON SILK.

To the editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

SIR:—As I know that among your staff you have a gentleman conversant with insurance matters who has frequently adjusted claims in dispute, you will pardon my applying to you for an explanation of a clause in the *pro forma* godown receipt for silk published by you on the 19th instant, which says :—

Fire insurance is provided on \$—. This receipt is subject to the ordinary conditions of fire insurance policies as regards fire, and to the same exceptions as regards custody.

What construction can be placed on the whole of this clause, and especially on the last eight words? I am an insurance man of no mean parts myself and am bewildered. Would a foreign bank accept a declaration of insurance worded in this manner? If not, why is such a document tendered to confiding Japanese who know nothing at all of the intricacies of fire insurance?

Some explanation is certainly necessary, as silk merchants generally must be supposed to be responsible for the published contract notes until their authorship is divulged.

Yours truly,

QUALIS.

November 24th.

To the editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

SIR:—After a careful and protracted study of the clause criticised by your correspondent "Qualis," and commented upon by yourself in your last night's issue, my mind has most reluctantly admitted a suspicion so insulting to the unknown draftsman of the now famous godown-receipt that I am not surprised at its escaping the attention of any generous critic at the first reading. The clause runs :—

"This receipt is subject to the ordinary conditions of fire insurance policies as regards fire, and to the same exceptions as regards custody."

Protected by my *incognito*, which I feel sure you will hold sacred, I venture to suggest the bare possibility that the words following the comma were not intended to have any connection with fire or insurance, and that the word 'same' so dear to the commercial pen, refers only to 'ordinary'; in fact that the intended meaning is that 'This receipt is subject to the ordinary conditions of fire insurance policies as regards fire, and also to the usual exceptions as regards custody.'

But no, I must be wrong. This solution, simple as it is, is too improbable; for, if I have rightly guessed the interpretation of the bewildering clause, what possible motive could its writer have had for refraining from saying what he meant?

Yours truly,

DRYASDUST.

25th. November 1881.



## Occasional Notes.

THE contents of the current number of the *China Review* are varied and attractive, and fully sustain the high reputation which this useful publication enjoys amongst all readers who desire to extend their researches amongst the folk lore, history, religions, and traditions of the vast empire from whence it derives its name.

The number opens with a continuation of "Translations from the general code of laws of the Chinese Empire." The instalment given relates principally to the marriage laws. Mr. Jamieson appears to have taken great care and pains in the task of rendering this formidable enactment into plain English, and it may therefore be taken as a correct representation of the high estimation in which the "holy estate" is held by the Chinese. But the question is, do they practise what they preach? We cannot, for instance, believe that Celestials are innocent on the score of bigamy or polygamy, although this terrible edict so far regards it as "sin" as to direct that any one who "marries a wife a second time whilst the first wife is alive shall be liable to 90 blows and the parties shall be separated." The right reverend bench of the House of Lords who hold up their hands in pious horror and indignation at the bare suggestion of a man marrying his sister-in-law will no doubt be rejoiced to learn that the Chinese are particularly strict on the score of kindred and consanguinity, not only extending the prohibition to consins of the remotest degree but even forbidding marriage between persons of the same surname, the principals negotiating such an alliance being liable to 60 blows, the union to be null and void, the woman returning to her family and the marriage presents being confiscated by the government. The table of affinity and kindred attached to the Prayer Book of the English Church has often caused a great deal of perplexity, but it is simplicity itself when compared with the marvellous table of consanguinity which Mr. Jamieson has appended to his able translation. What with squares, circles, characters, and hieroglyphics it would puzzle an astrologer. The notes and comments interspersed are interesting and instructive, and bear strong testimony to great study and research on the part of their author. Mr. E. H. Parker supplies another relay of his ably written "Short journeys in Sz Ch'uan," which will prove most acceptable to those who have read what he has already given as well as to those who have not. Meteorologists will find ample food for reflection in the "Amount of Precipitation (Rain and Snow) of Peking" by Mr. H. Fritzsche. "Notes on the Dutch occupation of Formosa" by Mr. George Phillips is readable. Under the head of "Notices of New Books" we find a clever and appreciative review of Mr. Balfour's translation of *Nan Hua* which was noticed at some length in the *Japan Gazette* of 24th. Sept. last. There is also a favourable notice of the *Chrysanthemum* for September and October. We may be wrong, but we cannot help thinking that the writer is in some way connected with missionary operations as he has evidently some crotchet in his head relative to the real or imaginary antagonism said to exist between scientific education and religious training. Be he whom he may, he does not seem disposed to accept the truth of the maxim propounded by an

ancient author:—*ingenuas didicisse fideliter artes, emollit mores nec sinit esse feroces*. We quite agree with him that in accepting Christianity it by no means follows that Japan should take any of the forms of Christianity prevalent in the west—perhaps the less she takes of them the better as she may find them to be mere forms and very little else—or altogether cast aside those vital principles of virtue underlying Shintoism, Buddhism or Confucianism. The reviewer is "not far from the kingdom;" hereafter he will discover what many comparative theologians already understand, viz:—that the several religious systems both of the ancient and modern world are only so many guesses at truth. Hereafter it may be made plain to all that such parts as they have in common are very near the exact truth: in the meantime *quot homines, tot sententiae*. Some interesting notes and queries help to complete a very fair number of this valuable periodical.

CERTAIN religious ceremonies will be observed at the Imperial palace; Their Majesties the Mikado, Empress, and Empress Dowager, princes, the *daijin*, *sangi* and ministers of departments will be present.

It is stated that Mr. Kono, late minister of husbandry and commerce and Mr. Mayeshima, late post master-general having faithfully discharged their duties will be furnished with some reward as a testimony of their merit.

THE *Choya Shinbun* says a telegram announces that the sailing ship *Rioo-maru* struck against a rock at Yashirisaki in Nanbu and sank. It is said that she had on board 27,200 yen worth of goods insured by the Kaisho Hoken Kwaisha.

THE *Mai Nichi Shinbun* announces that the Genro-in having completed the examination of a draft of the proposed marine laws has been closed.

THE same paper says: Messrs. Miyaji and Kurimura who sent a notice to the authorities to the effect that they have determined to be independent of Japanese jurisdiction, have been taken into custody by the police.

THE question propounded by our correspondent *Qualis* is rather difficult to answer. The clause as it stands is ambiguous and open to conflicting constructions. An agreement to insure should be express, and state, in explicit terms, the conditions upon which the property is covered against the risk of fire. If silk is sent in to A, as custodian for B, upon the condition that in event of loss by fire A shall be responsible, A has a clear insurable interest in his own name without any declaration of agency, the ordinary wording of the policy "in trust, or on commission, for which he (A) is responsible," being amply sufficient to cover such property. If B simply sends in silk to A without this stipulation, the godown receipt is insufficient, for it does not state, in so many words, that insurance against fire has been effected; or even that the godown keeper accepts a liability for loss by fire.

As the documents stand we are inclined to the opinion that no business man could accept them. The purchase note should contain an express agreement to insure, somewhat in the following form:—

I have this day bought from — — — piculs weight of silk contained in—bales or boxes, upon customary terms. The seller guarantees that the bulk shall be fairly equal to the sample agreed

upon. During the process of inspection, which shall be completed within—fair working days, and until the completion of this purchase, the silk shall be held by me in trust for the seller; and be insured to the extent of \$— against all risks of fire specifically in the ——— Fire Insurance Company, or generally under policies now current in my name covering the contents of the buildings in which the silk is stored; subject, in all cases, to the usual conditions of such policies.

The sale note should contain a stipulation by the seller that he delivers the silk to the purchaser upon the condition that the latter shall be responsible to a given extent for all fire losses, and that suitable insurance shall be effected therefor. The documents adopted by the meeting are incomplete. Neither sale nor purchase note contains any allusion to fire insurance; and the clause in the "godown receipt," besides being quite unintelligible in its wording, is certainly not an agreement to insure which an insurance company would be justified in accepting a liability for in event of loss. If the purchase and sale notes are amended, the clause in the godown receipt should simply be:—"Insured for \$— against fire in accordance with the conditions of the purchase contract note."

The clause to which *Qualis* takes exception is peculiar, and we quote it here in order that its meaningless character may be prominently brought forward. "Fire insurance is provided on \$—. This receipt is subject to the ordinary conditions of insurance policies as regards fire, and to the same exceptions as regards custody." The italicised words are devoid of meaning, unless fire policies contain stipulations with regard to the duties of a warehouse-keeper, which they do not.

The committee have no doubt revised these particularly loosely drawn documents. If not, Japanese merchants will do well to remember that unless the intending purchaser incurs a distinct liability for fire losses and that, until purchase is effected the silk under examination is declared to be held in trust for the owner, a mere informal statement that *insurance is provided* is not sufficient security. To carelessly drawn and ambiguous documents half the litigation of the world is due.

AN important item of news has come to our knowledge. We have heard on unquestionable authority that the published text of the Tseng treaty of St. Petersburg is far from being a complete document. By supplementary secret clauses, the purport of which has been communicated to London, and no doubt other capitals, an offensive and defensive alliance, in given cases, has been made between China and Russia, a fact of the highest import to Japan and a great factor in the conduct of the future foreign relations of this country. In other respects the new treaty of Tseng mainly follows the important provisions of the discarded Ch'ung How pact of Livadia.

Our information leads to the belief that in addition to a mere nominal money indemnity Russia has obtained great powers over China to be used at some convenient season; and Russian aggression, foiled in India, is being turned in the direction of the extreme east.

The tendency of nations with interests in common to unite for their protection is exemplified in the European concert, the understanding between the three emperors, and the jealousy with which the European eastern question is guarded. A combination far more powerful, more beneficial to the world at large, and fraught with the highest blessings of peace and civilization, than any alliance of which there is record, is spoken of in no uncertain language. An Anglo-American union, extending its protective hand over all English-

speaking people wheresoever they may be, is a grand conception not likely to be suffered to drop out of sight. How, then, does it come to pass that the only two nations of the east which deserve the rank, should be divided instead of united? Has Russia greater interests in common with China than Japan has? We ask this question, because a Russo-Chinese alliance is a standing menace to the integrity of this empire.

An entertainment was given at the Machigai-sho, last evening (22nd ult.), by the native import merchants in honour, we presume, of the termination of the silk difficulty. About thirty foreigners were present although a much larger number had been invited. The directors of the Rengo and import merchants mustered in full force. The governor of Kanagawa-ken, the superintendent of customs, one or two other officials and several Japanese ladies also put in an appearance. The large hall was converted into a temporary theatre. Shortly after 8 p.m. the curtain rose and the audience were entertained with what may be called a ballet in Japanese style. Although presenting a strange contrast to what one may have witnessed at the Alhambra in the palmy days of that favourite resort of metropolitan sightseers before the can-can stepped in and deprived it of its wonted glories, the dancing and costumes of the ladies of the *corps de ballet* were graceful in the extreme. The native musicians who played the accompaniment acquitted themselves very creditably. They knew the difference between discord and harmony which is more than can be said of Chinese minstrels, who are altogether innocent of tune and generally have no more idea of time than if they had been born and bred in eternity. At 9.15 an adjournment was made to the refreshment room where congratulatory speeches were exchanged on the happy termination of the dispute. After an interval of half an hour the party again repaired to the hall where amusements were continued until 10.15 when the guests returned the refreshment room. Two or three toast were proposed and responded to and the party separated at an early hour. The Imperial marine band was in attendance and played a selection of popular music at intervals during the evening.

THE following letter has been addressed by the editor of this paper to the editor of the *Japan Daily Mail*.

To the editor of the *Japan Daily Mail*,

SIR:—I am compelled to adopt the unusual course of addressing you in reference to a mis-statement contained in your issue of yesterday. Alluding to a series of extracts from Mr. Wilkin's speeches at the meetings of the foreign silk association and at the conference at the United States legation, and the citation of certain acts of his, you were pleased to say:—

"There can be no two opinions about the honesty or justice of a writer who, unless he has completely lost his reasoning faculties, must be well aware that the charge he formulates is not supported by an atom of evidence. We should owe an apology to Mr. Wilkin did we attempt to defend him against such an adversary. He has left his assailants' letters unnoticed; and he can very well afford to treat that gentleman's articles with the same indifference."

The innuendo in the closing lines of this passage is clearly that "a sometime chairman of the foreign silk association" was the author of the article to which you allude. Permit me to say that the surmise is at once unjustifiable and incorrect. The article was written by myself. It was free from bias,

feeling, or injustice; and no person unconnected with the staff of this office saw it prior to publication; or was in any way spoken to or consulted about its contents.

As you have, on a former occasion, officiously attempted to identify two persons, one of whom is dead and the other absent, with certain articles and letters in previous issues of this paper, and quite incorrectly, I trust you will be good enough to abstain in future from the *suggestio falsi* which distinguishes all your allusions to this journal and the motives of its conductors.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. H. TALBOT,

Editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

Yokohama, November 24th., 1881.

THE Taiso Kwaisha (godown company) have decided to establish three offices in different parts of the country, that is, in Tokio, Osaka, and Kobe; and they have applied to the government for the necessary permission. Their capital for the office of Tokio is said to be 200,000 yen, for that of Osaka, 150,000 yen, and that of Kobe 100,000 yen.

THE *Choya Shinbun* says that Mr. Yoshii, junior vice financial minister, has been appointed head of the new office in his department whose duty it is to superintend the specie bank.

THE *Hochi Shinbun* refers to a rumour that the Shosen Gakko (mercantile marine school) of the Mitsui Bishi Company will be transferred to the hands of the agricultural and commercial department.

THE *Hochi Shinbun* remarks: Mr. Yendo, a *shizoku* of Hamamatsu in Totomi, who has paid great attention to the mineral interest for many years, has discovered a silver and copper mine at Osawayama, and after a trial made by him and six others the ore has been found to be of very good quality. In September last it was examined at the mineral bureau, and a licence for working the mine was granted. The promoters are now making efforts to raise capital for establishing a mining company named the Totomi Kozan Gwaisha.

THE *Mai Nichi Shinbun* has the following items:—

A rumour is current to the effect that the government will shortly take steps to amend abuses now prevailing among banks all over the country, and to establish a central bank.

SEVERAL rumours have prevailed concerning a sum of 500,000 yen which Mr. Godai, the notorious chief promoter of the Kaitakushi affair borrowed from the government, but we are now informed that it is nearly settled for him to refund the sum in ten years by instalments.

YESTERDAY morning (24th. ult.), a great fire broke out at Horiyecho, Osaka, when 405 houses were destroyed.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* says that the government, with a view to economizing their expenditure next year, have decided on dismissing several of officials.

THE *Hochi Shinbun* remarks:—The police guard for the house of the *daijin* is fixed at 22 and that of the *sangi* 15.

MR. SAKURADA, secretary of the foreign department has been appointed minister to Holland.

THE same paper says that H. E. Ogi will give an entertainment to the *daijin*, *sangi*, *corps diplomatique* and other native and foreign gentlemen, during three days from the 28th to the 30th instant.

THE *Annales de L'extrême Orient* for August contains an article by "C. G." on Germany in the Far East. England, the writer says, is the first nation which established regular and frequent communication with China, Australia and the islands of the south sea. After a short time France followed; and recently the chambers voted an annual subvention of 3,300,000 francs (£132,000) to the Messageries Maritimes Company for a line of steamers between Marseilles and New Caledonia. Belgian merchants are endeavouring to obtain a similar measure in favour of Antwerp, but as yet without result. Germany, also, is beginning to learn that a regular line of steamers develops the commercial relations of two countries. With this idea the German chancellor has laid a memorial before the Reichstag tending to the development of German trade with China and Japan. He refers to the imperative necessity of establishing a line of steamers between these countries and Germany, and of German banks there, with branches in the chief centres. Ten years ago Germany attempted to develop its trade with China and Australia, but has hardly succeeded so far. In spite of the low prices of German products they have not been able to compete with those of England and France. Moreover, German manufacturers work alone. They do not, as with English and French manufacturers, employ as intermediaries commission merchants who can report accurately on the wants of distant countries, and on the condition in which goods should be sent. The manufacturers send their wares themselves, trusting to be able to part with them; and when they fail to do so they neglect further exportation to that country, except perhaps with other articles, or under other conditions. It is not surprising, therefore, that their efforts have not hitherto been attended with great success. In fact the branches of the Deutsche Bank which were opened in Shanghai and Yokohama in 1871 were closed in 1874, and the German merchants are paid by bills at three or six months on London or Paris, thus losing commission, interest, &c.

To improve this state of things Prince Bismark recommends the employment of export merchants at the principal ports of the empire, whose duty it should be to supply information to the manufacturers, and to watch over goods destined for far eastern markets. On this subject, the consular corps also will give most useful information. In the second place, German banks are to be founded in China and Australia.

The writer commends this step, and states that English commerce owes much to the establishment of such banks. "Banks are established by England behind armies of occupation." The chief point of the Chancellor's scheme, however, is the founding of a line of steamers. Hamburg is already in communication with China and Australia by means of lines of steamers; but the service is irregular and insufficient. German merchants are thus forced to have recourse to foreign vessels, or take the chance of their own steamers, which give no guarantee of rapidity, or of reduced freights for slow passages. In China, and

especially at Shanghai, there are a large number of German houses with branches at Hamburg; but they are compelled to use foreign lines of steamers for the importation of German goods into China, or of Chinese articles into Germany. It is evident that Prince Bismarck desires to put Germany abreast of England and France in commercial matters in the east, and the merchants of the two latter countries may soon expect a lively competition with Germany.

To sum up, the measures recommended to the Reichstag are:—

1st.—The formation of commission agents to instruct manufacturers in the wants, conditions and customs of various countries.

2nd.—The organisation and development of the consular corps.

3rd.—The founding of branches of the German banks in the principal countries.

4th.—The creation of lines of steamers which will at the same time support the power of Germany in distant countries.

5.—State subventions to these lines during at least the earlier years of their existence.

In its chronicle of the month, the same journal reports that the Society for the French language in Japan is prospering. "We were not mistaken when we predicted a great success for this society. It has already two hundred members, several of whom live in Europe. A committee for the preparation of a Japanese-French dictionary is to be appointed; and it is also proposed to publish a geography and history of Japan in French."

YESTERDAY (25th. ult.) over two hundred silk producers were entertained at the Fukuri tea-house by the members of the Bengo Kiito Nidzukurisho, in commemoration of the happy termination of foreign opposition to the monopolists' demands.

It is gratifying to find our Japanese friends so happy and convivial after two month suspension of business. Among foreigners there is no sign of rejoicing; on the contrary, the feeling prevalent is one of humiliation and irritation which bodes no good to future commercial relations with Japan.

THE promoters of the Bluff Fire Insurance Company, after permitting fifteen days to elapse during which the number of shares specified in the resolution passed at the meeting on the 10th. instant could have been applied for, have decided to proceed no further in the matter. Seven hundred and fifty shares were specified as the limit at which business should be commenced, and at the close of yesterday subscriptions had been received for 716 shares; so, in this view of the matter, the undertaking has been abandoned for want of 34 shares only; but in reality the promoters were properly of opinion that the interest taken in the company was too lukewarm to warrant more delay, and more than sufficient time having been granted to intending applicants it was not advisable to incur any further trouble or expense.

This movement is not without attendant advantages; and if the promoters have failed to arouse the interest of bluff land renters in a measure for their benefit, they have succeeded in conferring upon bluff owners and residents a material advantage in the shape of the reduction of premium charged by home and local companies; for, although the former with one exception have not yet followed the lead of the latter, it is clear they must do so or lose their business. From 2 to 1½, and from 1½ to 1 per cent. is a mean reduction of ½ per

cent., representing a saving to bluff residents of an aggregate sum of probably \$10,000 a year.

The movement is also instructive in two ways. It teaches the community what can be done by a little self help and even the humblest show of resistance to abuses and taxes which no other people could or would submit to with the apathetic indifference shown by us. It is also a warning to established fire offices not to be in too great a hurry to give up the high rates hitherto enjoyed by them. Had the three offices awaited the issue of this undertaking they would have discovered beyond doubt that the community would prefer to pay even higher rates than they have done to the trouble of forming a company of their own. The story bears a moral, which is, that every public movement initiated in Yokohama should be disregarded for its failure is inevitable; therefore, why should fire offices, or any other outside undertakings, deriving all the benefit from our business forego their advantages at the dictation of an imaginary opposition? Twice has this been the case within two years. The next undertaking promoted will have the disadvantage of the previous cry of Wolf! and will probably ignominiously fail without any counterbalancing advantage.

THE *Mainichi Shinbun* says the new civil code has been completed and the last drafts forwarded to H. E. Ogi.

A MEETING of the Nippon Tetsudo Kwaisha was held on the 28th. instant, when it was proposed that the salary of the president should be fixed at 500 yen per month, the subordinate officers to be paid in proportion to this amount. The motion was opposed on the ground that, as the company as subsidized by the government salaries ought to be as small as possible. The argument is certainly original even if it has nothing else to recommend it. It does not, however, seem to have had much weight as the proposal was duly carried by a majority of those present.

THE *Choya Shinbun* has the following notes:—It is said that an assembly of governors of *fu* and *ken* will be convened next month for the discussion of three important subjects. Concerning the nature of the matters set down for debate, our contemporary rests in blissful ignorance.

MR. KURIMURA KANSUKU, one of the gentlemen who recently signed a declaration of independence has cried *pocoavi*. He withdrew his notice at the eleventh hour, the *saibansho* declared him "not guilty," and he was at once released from "durance vile."

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* states that the construction of a new observatory has been commenced at Kwodai in Shimooza under the auspices of the geographical bureau.

THE races at Toyama yesterday were a great success and attracted a very large attendance both of foreigners and Japanese. The Mikado was present and also several of the Imperial Princes, and the sporting world of Yokohama was well represented. Among the winning Japan ponies we noticed *Hiden*, *Kamakura*, and *Katerfelto* the last named winning the race *once round for Jockeys who had never had a winning mount*, in fine form after having been left several lengths behind at the start.

His Majesty presented a Handicap prize to be competed for by ponies that had run in

Yokohama, for which the following were entered.

<i>Chichi-no-he</i> ... ..	130 lbs.
<i>Shiratorigatake</i> ... ..	135 "
<i>Katerfelto</i> ... ..	142 "
<i>Kamakura</i> ... ..	147 "

Distance, once round (about 1408 yards.) After an exciting race this was won by *Kamakura* by ¼ a length from *Katerfelto*. both ponies running in splendid style, time 1.52.

The marine band played during the afternoon, and greatly added to the pleasure of the proceedings.

THE *Argus*, in its issue of the 28th. inst., takes the *Japan Mail* rather severely to task for what it considers to be an unfair criticism of the case of *da Roza v. the Imperial government of Japan*. In the course of a long article our young contemporary remarks that the *Japan Mail* has entered the field as the champion of the government and Mr. Goto Shojiro. The *Mail* calls the attitude assumed by Mr. Hill when in court "tragic and awe-inspiring," but in the opinion of the *Argus* that gentleman did nothing illegal, for if he had he would have been stopped by the judges; the letter of Mr. de Baviera so strongly condemned by the *Mail* the Portuguese journal considers to be perfectly regular, and that in writing it, the acting consul did no more than his duty. He then delivers himself as follows.

The *Mail* says "the case was never really tried, so that there is no ground whatever upon which any opinion can be formed." Nevertheless he has expressed a very strong opinion and for once we have caught him firmly. He has flatly contradicted himself within the limits of a single article. He commences by saying that "fewer still, outside the intransigent section of Yokohama politicians, but will view with satisfaction the termination of what had long been regarded as a public scandal," and then later on asserts that "the case was never really tried." If it was never tried how can it have terminated? The fact is, it remains *in statu*, and will have to be decided sooner or later.

The editor of the *Japan Mail* has on several occasions affirmed, protested, and sworn that whatever he writes, or has written, is entirely the outcome of "honest conviction." To us it matters not: we are utterly indifferent as to whether such is the case or not. But the "honest conviction" of a large proportion of the community is that the *Japan Mail* is subsidized by the Japanese government, and consequently is its semi-official organ. The utterances of the paper are therefore not those of the editor but of his masters and employers. It is also known that the same pen which translated the recent decision of the *Dai-shin-in* wrote the last lines of the article which appeared in the *Japan Weekly Mail* of the 19th. instant.

The *Mail* has conceived a splendid idea of throwing dust in the eyes of the public, but we can assure our contemporary that he has failed in accomplishing his object.

HIS Imperial Majesty the Mikado was present at the Toyama races yesterday (27th. Nov.)

ACCORDING to the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* the *sanji-in* is engaged in sundry financial reforms relative to *fu* and *ken*.

The following return of births, deaths, &c., in Tokio during September last has been published:—

Births, males ... ..	707	
" females ... ..	703	1,436 (sic)
Deaths, males ... ..	1,223	
" females ... ..	952	2,175
Marriages ... ..	430	
Divorces ... ..	257	

THE *Choya Shinbun* says a severe snow storm prevailed at Uyeda in Shinano on the 21st instant when serious injury was done to houses and fields through the overflow of rivers.

THE demand for canvas having increased in proportion to the extension of navigation during the last six or seven years, Mr. Makita has established a large canvas factory at Sakai in Osaka-fu.

THE *Chuigai Bukka Shinpo* states that out of 450,000 silk-egg cards which arrived at Yokohama during the season only about 200,000 were sold. The cause of the decline in this branch of the trade is attributed to the fact of so many Italian merchants having left the settlement. About 250,000 cards remain in stock for which no purchasers can be obtained.

THE *Japan Herald* states much that is true in a paragraph respecting the attempt to establish a Bluff Fire Insurance Co., but it evidently does not clearly comprehend the motives of those who undertook the troublesome preliminaries. That such a company would, in a short time, prove a fairly good investment there were good reasons to believe; but that was quite a secondary consideration. The first object was not that the promoters should absorb the shares but that they should endeavour to interest all owners of Bluff property in a scheme for their especial benefit; and as there are nearly 300 of them it was not unreasonable to assume that about one-half might be satisfied with the prospectus and join the association, the shares having been made low enough to bring them within the reach of every respectable person. Had this expectation been realised the company would have had between one and two hundred shareholders, none being liable for any unpaid capital he would have found it difficult to make good at any time. The public would, in such case, have had ample security; and the company would have had the advantage of a portion of its large shareholders' business secured to it. In fact the mutual principle common to the insurance clubs among small shipowners was never lost sight of; and although the question of dividend was not deemed to be of primary importance it was felt that there would be little difficulty in paying a satisfactory percentage on so small a sum as \$20,000.

When the project was first mooted it met with much encouragement; but unfortunately many of those strongest in promises failed in performance when practical effect was given to the scheme. Notices were sent to the principal property owners setting out the objects in view and enclosing two notes, one of approval, the other of disapproval. Was it wrong to assume that ordinary courtesy would impel the person addressed to return an answer which, to save trouble, was printed for him? Possibly so, for barely one-fourth of the number had the common politeness to respond in any way whatever. This, however, is so usually the procedure in Yokohama that the promoters tried other ways to

arouse public attention; in the course of which they discovered the prevalent feeling to be in favour of the undertaking, but an evident disinclination to accord support. Many said they would "see about it"—and never saw about it. Others said they would "see how it went on," forgetting, apparently, that the company could not go on at all without shareholders. Others demurred because they were agents for fire insurance companies; a reason equivalent to the advocacy of the right of thirty rich corporations to tax this poor community and denying to the latter the right of resistance. Some wanted the paid-up capital doubled—it was doubled, and they then fell back upon "will see about it." For about four months the promoters encountered nothing but hesitation, approval never ratified, prevarication, the rude and contemptuous refusal to reply to polite business communications distinctly asking for reply; they answered questions, combated objections, did their best to encounter and remove mistaken impressions and insidious attempts to impugn the intentions of the original movers, with the result that is now known. Every opportunity was given to the community to investigate the proposal, to nominate their own board of directors, to take the matter into their own hands: and the best that could be done was done. Under such circumstances it is somewhat unfair, certainly unkind, of a journal which boasts of its influence, to refrain from publishing a single word of encouragement or honest criticism while the undertaking was struggling into life, to tell us now that "there were names on the directory which inspired no general confidence, and which consequently commanded no support when most needed for the new project." This sentence is invidious and unjustifiable to an extremity. The directors were all well known members of the community, of the highest respectability and position, and all directly interested in bluff property.

The practice of standing aloof from every undertaking thereby ensuring its failure, when a little energy would secure its prosperous establishment, is characteristic of this community which has no institutions of any description of its own. He who would undertake the initiation of any scheme, however palpably sound and profitable it may be, should have the courage of Achilles, the effrontery of the Tichborne claimant, and the patience of Job. With these qualifications he may after three months of hard labour hope to interest about one-twentieth part of the foreign residents of Yokohama, to find, when calling upon them to ratify their promises, that one-half of them have changed their minds and prefer "to see about it."

THE *Mai Nishi Shinbun* publishes a rumour to the effect that the treasure offices in every government department will be abolished next year and the business be conducted by officials belonging to the finance department.

OWING to a great failure in wheat crops in China, says the same paper, the price of the grain has extraordinarily risen and the Komei Shokwai at Yokohama have contracted with a Chinese merchant to sell 500,000 *yen* worth of wheat.

THE same paper refers to a rumour prevailing in Korea that the anti-progressionists in that country are so furiously excited by the execution of Kiamikaku by the Korean govern-

ment, that they intend to surprise and to commit great outrage in a new drill ground where Korean soldiers are drilled by our Ensign Horimoto.

THE *Choya Shinbun* announces that Mr. Katayama, an official of the agricultural and commercial department has recently discovered a coal deposit at Tenjiozan in Idzu; a sample which he brought back from the mine is now under examination.

A FOOLISH report has been circulated to the effect that half a dozen prime movers in the Rengo Kiito Niadzukarisho propose another entertainment to celebrate the amicable settlement of that affair. Yokohama merchants are to be invited; but presumably Japanese only; for as Messrs. Hara Zenzaburo and Mogi Sobei are among the hosts it is to be hoped that no foreign merchant will accept the invitation, the charges preferred against them by these two persons in particular remaining uncorroborated and still not withdrawn.

THE *Mai Nishi Shinbun* announces that His Imperial Majesty the Mikado will be present at the Mita races on the 4th., and the Fukiage park races on the 10th. inst.

THEIR excellencies Yanagiwara and Nabeshima, ministers in Russia and Italy, are expected to arrive here about the 15th. inst.

THE *Hochi Shinbun* hears that an international exhibition will be held in Amsterdam in 1883.

THE *Choya Shinbun* says a certain high official proposes to establish a company for the export of timber to China. The customs department so far favours the scheme that an application has been made to allow the above article to be exported free of duty.

COUNTERFEIT paper money continues to be daily detected. The forgery has assumed a new form; by some ingenious process notes are frequently split in two whereby the sharpers are enabled to pass them twice over. The *Nichi Nishi Shinbun*, which affords this information, says the government are keeping their eyes open and that they are by no means inclined to credit Japanese with such consummate skill.

Snow fell in Shinano on the 25th. and 26th. ult. when the ground was covered one foot deep.

THE *Church Missionary Intelligencer* for October contains an article entitled "Japanese newspapers on Religion." This consists of translations of two articles from a paper called the *Rikugo Zasshi*, and we doubt very much whether they were ever written by a Japanese. They bear evidence rather of being originally written in English, by an Englishman, and then translated into Japanese. We find quotations from Buckle, Goethe, Moses, Danton, Lord Herbert of Cherbury, Comte, Frothingham, Bacon, and Neander! We find references also to Manicheism, Postivism, Natural Religion, &c. We do not think any Japanese, writing in support of Christianity, has ever heard of Neander, Frothingham, Herbert of Cherbury, or Manicheism. The substance of the articles lies in the following sentences:— "We believe the only religion that can satisfy the religious aspirations of the Japanese people is Christianity; and therefore our desire is to strain every nerve in spreading it



abroad, and thus, first, manifest the glory of God, and, secondly, preserve and promote virtue among our fellow-men."

The articles in which this passage occurs would be striking if they were the genuine, spontaneous utterances of a Japanese mind, published in a secular Japanese paper. It is as such they appear in the *Church Missionary Intelligencer*; otherwise what is their value, or why should they appear at all? We in this country, however, believe that they are either wholly or partly the work of a foreigner, and valueless as an indicator of the attitude of even a single Japanese towards the religions of the west. There is no note or remark informing the reader that the *Rikugo Zasshi* is a propagandist publication, and that the writer of the articles was either an Englishman or American, and not a Japanese.

Indifference was at one time believed to be the position of the mass of Japanese towards Christianity, but this is hardly the case any longer. Papers like the *Choya* and *Hochi Shinbun* now discuss its probable spread in the country, and the effects to be anticipated therefrom. Translations of articles from such papers as these would be useful, for they show the general ideas of cultivated Japanese on the subject. The articles from the *Rikugo Zasshi* are worthless for this or any other purpose, except to show the views of missionaries. It would be as fair and seasonable to call upon a man to speak as to his own character in a court of justice.

The recent report of the inspector-general of Chinese Customs on opium in China has excited much interest in England. It shows from the amount of opium grown in China, as well as imported, that the number of Chinese addicted to the drug must be very small. Professor Douglas, of the British Museum, writes to *The Times* showing, on general grounds, why the result attained by means of statistics by Mr. Hart should be probably accurate. The inspector-general believes that the number of Chinamen who smoke opium to excess has been much exaggerated, and Professor Douglas finds full confirmation of this belief in the superabundant population of the empire. An inveterate opium-smoker, he says, is never the father of a family. "If the general conditions of China were favourable to infant life, this, even if the number of inveterate opium smokers were greater than it is, would be of less account. But, as in all eastern countries, the rate of infant mortality in China is very high. Bad hygienic surroundings, the carelessness of parents, the ignorance of the doctors, the prevalence of epidemics, and in some few districts the practice of female infanticide, are destructive causes which would tell more perceptibly on the census returns than they do if they were supplemented on the otherhand by a noticeable failure of productiveness."

According to the *Mai Nichi Shinbun*, the government have decided to arm all forts defending streets with Krupp guns. The shells for these guns which are now being manufactured at the arsenals in Tokio and Osaka are of very superior quality.

The *Nichi Nichi Shinbun*, *Akebono Shinbun*, *Maiji Nippo*, *Mai Nichi Shinbun*, and *Hochi Shinbun*, were each sentenced to a fine of one hundred yen each yesterday for publishing an answer forwarded by the kanji of the so called liberal party in a preliminary examination made by the procurator,

The *Hochi Shinbun* says H. E. Iwakura intended to give up his appointment when the recent ministerial changes took place, but refrained from doing so in accordance with the advice of certain high officials. He is now confined to his house by indisposition, and it is currently reported that he will shortly send in his resignation.

In a paper published a short time since by the Société Asiatique de Paris, written by M. C. Imbault-Huart, of the French consular service in China, on the wars between China and Korea from 1618 to 1637, we find in a note the following interesting remarks on the emigration of Koreans across their own frontier to Russian territory. They are collected, we should say, from the *Bulletins* of the Geographical Society of St. Petersburg.

The northern provinces of Korea possess a poor soil, and after 1860 bad harvests succeeded each other. In spite of these bad years, and the fact that poverty had become actual famine, the governors of Korea none the less continued inexorably to levy the taxes, and even increased them. In 1863, their position being henceforth intolerable, twelve Korean families decided to emigrate towards the Russian territory on the Amur, which, in spite of its fertility, is even now but little colonized by the slaves. These families were received with sympathy; they were encouraged and supported, and the colony prospered. The news soon spread in Korea and incited other families to cross the frontier. In 1865 two hundred Koreans were counted as established in the Amur territory. At first the Korean authorities regarded the movement with perfect indifference; but in 1870 they began to grow uneasy when they saw not only families but whole villages disposed to follow the example of the emigrants. They endeavoured to stop this current which threatened to exhaust the sources of revenue in a country but little inhabited; they confiscated the goods of the emigrants, and overwhelmed with annoyances such relations as they had left behind them in Korea. But this did not stop the emigration. The Russians, always receiving the Koreans with the same attention and humanity, gave them land and assisted them in every way, and the unhappy people needed all the aid given them. Frequently they arrived at the outposts famished and in rags, and more than once the troops shared with them the victuals which the government had sent round by sea from Europe for its garrisons in the Far East. In 1874 there were in the country four thousand Koreans in thirteen colonies. These people quickly saw the superiority of European culture; Russian manners and customs were soon adopted by them. They built their houses in the Russian style, adopted the Russian dress and Russian modes of husbandry. Even christianity made great progress amongst them, and half of the colonies already profess the Greek faith. In general the Koreans are peaceful and submissive; a kindly peasantry more resembling the Japanese than the Chinese, more friendly, more simple and more modest, more "good fellows" than the latter, and quite as sober and sensible. Thus the Russians, by a wise policy, have gained peaceable and laborious subjects, who cultivate for them one of the extremities of the empire. The Korean government saw all this with an eye of wrath, and fear Russia even more than they hate her. What causes them most uneasiness is the knowledge that the refugees will teach foreigners the mysteries of their manners, language, and industries, hitherto kept so secret,

The *Choya Shinbun* publishes a rumour to the effect that Mr. Kuroda has proposed to continue the Kaitaku-shi as at present organized, but to decrease its expenditure to 600,000 yen. The cabinet is now discussing the matter and many *sangi* are said to be in favour of the proposal.

The Korean government having decided to adopt the Japanese naval and military systems, their ambassador is endeavouring to engage the services of several officers as instructors.

The customs returns for October last shows the following figures.

Exports ... ..	Yen 3,003,246.626
Imports ... ..	2,398,364.890

Excess of exports ... ..	604,653.736
Export of specie and bullion	789,606.693
Import " " "	380.000

The new regulations for corporations have been completed by the law drawing office in the *sangi-in* and are being printed.

The *Mai Nichi Shinbun* says: The races came off at Mita on Saturday last when Princes Fushimi, Higashi Fushimi, and Yamashina were present. The following are the winning horses.

1st race ... ..	Iwakawa.
2nd " ... ..	Katerfello.
3rd " ... ..	Bon René.
4th " ... ..	Kawakura.
5th " ... ..	Kiterfello.
Special " ... ..	Yokosuka.

The *Mai Nichi Shinbun* says: In a previous issue, we mentioned that preparations were nearly completed for establishing a central bank which has been projected for the purpose of protecting direct trade: this scheme has been so secretly planned that even officials in the bank bureau were, for the most part, first informed of it by newspapers. It is said that Mr. Kato, the superintendent of the bank bureau, is the original proposer.

A SUBSIDY, says the same paper, which was applied for by the proposed Kanno Gisha (a company for encouraging agriculture), promoted by Mr. Fugita and others was refused by the board of agriculture, works, and commerce; we are now told that the projectors have modified their plan and have decided to carry it out by their own exertions without asking for the government's protection. It is also said, Princes Arisugawa and Kita Shirakawa, the *daijin*, *sangi*, governors of *fu* and *ken*, and private gentlemen are among its members whose number already amounts to 16,200.

The *Choya Shinbun* has the following notes:—

The total amount of paper money consumed by fire at the premises of the printing office of the finance department yesterday, is 710,015 yen and 65 sen, and the number of pieces of paper thus destroyed is 884,784.

The expenditure of the judicial department will be increased from next year owing to the execution of the new criminal law and criminal procedure; the department have applied to the government to advance its annual expenditure to one million yen.

A GREAT fire took place in Osaka the day before yesterday (5th inst.) and destroyed about one hundred houses.

THE same paper informs us of a speculation which has caused a sudden fluctuation in the money market.

A merchant named Abeki in Koshu borrowed 2,000,000 yen from the specie bank on national bonds to the value of 3,000,000, and with this paper money he purchased 2,500 bales of raw silk which he mortgaged to some foreign house and obtained a certain sum of specie. He sold out \$750,000 at the stock exchange and thus effected a sudden fall in the price of specie.

Mr. HAYASHI, editor of the *Toboku Mai Nichi Shinbun* has been sentenced to imprisonment for one year and a fine of one hundred and fifty yen for violation of the press laws.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* says that the *Rivyo-kan* being about to be despatched to China, is making preparation for the cruise.

A SEVERE gale prevailed in Yato, Iwate-ken, on the 21st of last month, the steamer *Hoshomaru* went ashore on the sand, and the sailing vessels *Hotoku-maru*, *Yuko-maru*, *Fukuyō-maru* and *Taihei-maru* were wrecked. Seven people on board the *Hotoku-maru* were lost.

THERE seems to be some little misunderstanding, from what we hear, of the recent action among the principal silk dealers of Yokohama, who have put up notices in their houses that the reeling-masters of silk will not be allowed to remain in custody of the purchasers. Upon investigation the matter appears to be this. Neither the dealers nor the merchants of the interior wish to prevent foreign purchasers from reeling as many sample hanks as they choose from the parcels under process of purchase; but they object to these hanks remaining in the possession of the purchaser without being weighed with the parcel. Strictly speaking, this is a fair demand, but it is of too small importance to have called for a meeting of the dealers or have led to any discussion, because no foreign purchaser would object to weighing the sample hanks with the bulk, or of returning the samples to the seller, if merely asked to do so. We are anxious to set at rest any ideas to the contrary that Japanese dealers may have. The only object the buyer has in retaining samples is to have a record for reference upon receipt of information from the consignee respecting the outturn and classification of the parcel in Europe. We understand a good many buyers have an idea that the dealers object to any reeling samples being taken during purchase; but they are not correct in their supposition. They may reel to the full extent of their wishes, but they must weigh the hanks reeled with the bulk purchased. There is nothing unfair in the demand, but at the same time Japanese should understand they must not attempt to inform merchants of the interior that this has been a grievance, because they always had the option of demanding that the sample hanks should be weighed or to take them away; and no foreign house would have demurred.

THE *Mai Nichi Shinbun* has the following items:—The general assembly composed of governors of *fu* and *ken* sat for the first time yesterday.

THE Korean ambassador visited the foreign office yesterday and opened negotiations for a revision of the treaty of commerce existing between Japan and Korea.

KOREANS are scrupulously particular on the score of dress. Some of them were recently practising gymnastics at the Toyama military academy when their clothes were found to obstruct a free use of their limbs. The instructor mildly suggested that on future occasions they should appear in European costume. The simple-minded Koreans were horrified at the proposal: they said they could change neither their dress nor their shoes without special permission of their sovereign, and that it would be wrong for them even to think of doing so.

After having spoken to this effect, our contemporary adds, their wounded feelings found relief in tears.

A RICH coal deposit has just been discovered at Katsura in Awa and an application has been made to the government for a trial working. Strong hopes are entertained of the mine hereafter proving a valuable source of wealth to the fortunate discoverers.

TEA merchants in Tokio, Kioto, Kobe, Osaka, and Uji have decided on the establishment of factories with an estimated expenditure as under:—

Tokio	...	...	Yen 250,000
Osaka	...	...	" 150,000
Kobe	...	...	" 100,000

HIS Imperial Majesty the Mikado reviewed the regiments of guards at Hibiya to-day (6th inst.)

THE *Ohoya Shinbun* hears that H. E. Iwakura has tendered his resignation but does not believe the report.

THE *Hochi Shinbun* hears a rumour to the effect that the present organization of the cabinet is about to be changed.

THE *Choya Shinbun* says that paper money to the amount of 842,950 yen and 60 sen, was destroyed by fire yesterday at the premises, of the government printing office.

ACCORDING to the *N.-O. Daily News* of Nov. 25th., the agent of the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha in Shanghai had received a telegram announcing that the silk difficulty in Japan had been settled. In communicating this intelligence to the *N.-O. Daily News*, the agent added "the result is a complete victory for the Japanese." This telegram, we may reasonably infer, was forwarded by the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha in Tokio, of which Mr. Masuda is the chief; and significantly reflects the opinions entertained by the promoters of the Bengo Kiito Nindzukurisho of the effect of foreign "compromise," as it has been facetiously called.

THE *Hochi Shinbun* publishes a document purporting to be a manifesto of a benevolent society for the promotion of agriculture, in which statistics are handled with a startling freedom indicative of a desire to establish the undertaking at all hazards, and for that purpose to deceive the unwary by false figures. This undertaking, we believe, applied for, but was refused, government support and subsidy; and its project is to advance money, of course without interest or other object of ulterior profit or advantage, for improved and extended cultivation of lands. Extension of agriculture means increased production, and this by itself is highly commendable; but an earlier measure, and one essential to successful farming, is proper provision for carriage of produce to central markets. Until this is carried out aid to farmers and others as a means of deve-

lopment of national resources becomes of secondary importance.

What we desire to point out now is the unwarrantable inaccuracies in the statistics. During the twelve years 1868-79 rice exported and imported is given as follows, which we contrast with real statistical returns furnished by the customs, thus:—

	"Manifesto."	Real.
	yen.	yen.
Export valued at.....	9,122,690	11,600,523
Import .....	21,266,257	17,660,729
Excess of import.....	12,113,624 (sic)	5,970,197

The *Japan Mail* in its translation calls attention to the inaccuracies in this group of figures, and then falls into such errors of translation and notation itself that the reader becomes hopelessly mystified. Thus says the *Mail*:—"According to the returns of foreign trade in 1879, the value of imports was 5.368 yen and that of exports 0.1417, per head, the excess of imports being therefore 0.5256 yen." The figures in the manifesto we will now contrast with the real figures taken from the customs returns of trade for the year ending June 30th, 1879:—

	"Manifesto."	Real.
	yen.	yen.
Imports per head .....	1.3680	0.8618
Exports .....	0.7417	0.7033
Excess of imports .....	0.5256	0.1485

These exaggerated figures are, of course, introduced to preface the unwarrantable statement that 16,275,158 yen in specie was drained from the country for abroad in that year, difficulties to the national finances ensuing.

As the "manifesto" relies upon figures to support its arguments; and as all these we have been able to examine are grossly incorrect, the remainder must be regarded as wholly untrustworthy. Yet this is but one instance of the reckless manner in which figures are manipulated with what we cannot hesitate to call a culpable intention to deceive which would place the promoters of a company on such bases in Europe in the prisoners' dock.

THE friends of the crew of the U. S. *Alert* will be glad to learn of that vessel's movements since she left Yokohama on the 16th October last; we therefore publish them as received this morning (8th inst.) with our thanks to the considerate sender:—

ARRIVED	HRS. PASSAGE.	PORTS VISITED	HRS. IN PORT.	DEPARTED.
Oct. 18	60	Hino misaki...	16	19 Oct.
" 19	10	Kobe.....	(25 days)	14 Nov.
Nov. 14	10	Takamatsu...	48	16 "
" 16	4	Tadotsu .....	30	17 "
" 17	3	Tomotsu .....	21	18 "
" 18	3	Miura .....	21	19 "
" 19	4	Obe Hato Bay	47	21 "
" 22	23	Shimonoseki..	28	23 "
" 24	29	Nagasaki .....	...	...

We had delightful weather till we came to Obe Hato Bay, from which time till now (24th Nov.) we have had variable weather, mostly cold, rainy, and windy.

Our sporting readers will be glad to learn that the three well-known ponies *Rose*, *Shamrock*, and *Thistle* have been purchased by Mr. Paul for the handsome sum of \$3,500, and that they will soon arrive here from Shanghai to take part in the forthcoming race meeting. *Shamrock* won four races and *Rose* two events at last Shanghai meeting. —*China Mail*

## Law Reports.

IN HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S SUPREME COURT  
FOR CHINA AND JAPAN.

Before N. J. HANNEN, Esq., *Act. Chief Justice*,  
and

R. A. MOWAT, Esq., *Assistant Judge*.

18th. November 1881.

Between A. LANGFELDT and S. MATERS, carrying on business under the name or style of LANGFELDT AND MATERS, *Plaintiffs and Appellants*,

and

MARY E. GREEN, *Defendant and Respondent*.

## JUDGMENT.

This is an appeal from Her Britannic Majesty's Court for Japan.

In September 1871 the appellants recovered judgment against the respondent for a sum (including costs) of \$445.25. They took no steps to enforce the judgment—on the ground, as they allege, that the respondent promised to pay if time were given to her—till February 1879 when they brought an action on the judgment, claiming, in addition to the sum thereby awarded, \$300 by way of interest. In their petition the judgment upon which they sued was stated to be a judgment of "Her Britannic Majesty's Court at Kanagawa," but when the decree was put in, it was found to be headed "In Her Britannic Majesty's Supreme Court for China and Japan," and to be, moreover, sealed with the seal of the British Consulate at Kanagawa, and with no other. It further appeared in the course of the respondent's case that the petition in the first suit had been headed "In Her Britannic Majesty's Court for Japan"—a court which at that time had not been established.

In the judgment under appeal the judge of the court below says—"Now the judgment produced by the plaintiffs, and upon which their claim to succeed must rest, is entitled 'In Her Britannic Majesty's Supreme Court for China and Japan.' . . . It is not signed, and is sealed only with the Consulate seal of Kanagawa. It does not therefore profess to be a judgment of Her Britannic Majesty's Court at Kanagawa, in which the plaintiffs say they recovered judgment; and if, on the other hand, it be a judgment of the Supreme Court for China and Japan, there is nothing to show that it has been certified under the seal of the Court." He accordingly gives judgment for the defendant, but without costs, and it is from that the present appeal is brought.

The first point, as it appears to us, that we have to determine is, in what Court the decree produced by the appellants was actually pronounced. The cause was heard at Kanagawa in Japan by the then Acting Assistant Judge of the Supreme Court for China and Japan, who had been under Sec. 38 of the Order in Council of 1865, appointed by the judge of that court to visit in a judicial capacity the court at Kanagawa and there hear and determine any cases pending or that might arise in its district. We think it clear that under such circumstances the Assistant Judge or the Acting Assistant Judge did not become the judge of the Provincial Court, but as simply

the Assistant Judge or Acting Assistant Judge of the Supreme Court on circuit, and that consequently the decree in question was a decree of the Supreme Court, as (except for the seal) it purported to be. We think it unnecessary to enlarge upon this point, as this view was taken by Sir E. Hornby, the Judge of the Supreme Court at that time, in a decision given by him in 1872—subsequent, that is, to the judgment now under consideration. Even if our own view did not agree with his, we should on such a point as this feel ourselves bound by it, but, as we have stated, we should, independently of that authority, have come to the same conclusion.

The second point—one made rather by the respondent's counsel than one relied upon by the Judge of the court below—is easily disposed of. It is founded upon the incorrect heading of the first petition, but we consider that this was cured by the appearance of the respondent by counsel, and the fact that no objection was taken to the petition on that ground. Had objection been so taken, or had the heading of the petition been otherwise brought to the notice of the Acting Assistant Judge, it would have been amended as a matter of course.

There remains, then, only the difficulty of the seal, and that is a difficulty which, we are constrained to hold, is fatal. The seal affixed to the decree is not the seal of the court in which in our opinion the decree was pronounced. That it was the only seal ever used in the court—that there was no other seal available—that it was used, moreover, as the archives of this court show, in deference only to instructions from his official chief (the then Acting Judge, the late Mr. Goodwin) to the Acting Assistant Judge who had requested to be furnished with a seal of the Supreme Court for use at Kanagawa—none of these circumstances can avail against the respondent who relies upon the irregularity, purely technical though it is. We are of opinion, however, that, in order to avoid what would otherwise be a grave miscarriage of justice we can properly under Rule 172 give the appellants leave to amend their petition by alleging that the judgment was the judgment of the Supreme Court, and to substitute for the decree sealed with the Kanagawa Consulate Seal a decree in the same terms sealed with the seal of the Supreme Court. Both parties will then be at liberty (if the case cannot otherwise be settled—a course which we strongly recommend) to re-argue the appeal upon these amendments, the respondent having leave in addition to argue that they could not properly be made. There will be no costs to either parties, either below or here, up to this point.

## ORDER.

Let the plaintiffs have leave to substitute for the decree of which exhibit B is a copy the decree accompanying this order and to amend the petition in the court below by alleging that the judgment sued upon was the judgment of the Supreme Court and let both parties have leave to re-argue the appeal upon these amendments the defendant having leave to contend that these amendments could not properly be made and let the case come on for argument on Monday the nineteenth day of December next when the court will hear the parties or their counsel or will take into its consideration their written arguments.

Each party to pay their own costs up to the date of service of the present order.

Before N. J. HANNEN, Esq., *Acting Chief Justice*.

18th November 1881.

Between WILLIAM ALFRED MALCOLM, trading at No. 73 Yokohama under the name or style of MALCOLM, WILLCOX & Co., *Plaintiff and Appellant*,

and

A. SMITH, Master of the British Steam-Ship *Commonwealth*, *Defendant and Respondent*.

## JUDGMENT.

This is an appeal from a judgment of Mr. Wilkinson, Acting Law Secretary and Consul, sitting in Her Britannic Majesty's Court for Kanagawa. The judgment was in favor of the defendant and the plaintiff has appealed on the grounds that the decision is contrary to the evidence and bad in law.

After going through the evidence and the arguments of the counsel I cannot see that there is any foundation for either of these objections.

The two points for decision appear shortly to be these. 1st—Did the damage complained of come within the exceptions of the Bill of Lading, and 2ndly—If it did, was negligence on the part of the defendant made out.

I am of opinion that the damage complained of did come within the exceptions. The damage was due to one of two causes, either the breakage of the casks or the insufficiency of them. If it was due to the breakage of the casks, it was clearly within the exception. The meaning of the words 'breakage' may I think, be gathered (if it needs any explanation) from the judgments of Justices Grove and Denman in *Thrift and Youle* (L. R. 2. C. P. D. 432.) Grove J. there says—"The words, in the 'Bill of Lading simply mean that if the goods shipped are injured by rust, or if the casks containing them become leaky or are broken, the shipowner is not to be answerable." And Denman J. says—"By the use of the word 'breakage' it was merely intended that the shipowner should be absolved from liability in respect of goods broken during the voyage."

Moreover in this case I cannot say that there is any evidence to show that there was any damage done to the casks before they were attempted to be moved by the divers, and the evidence of the divers shows that the casks were in such a state that they could not be moved without breaking. This condition was in my opinion produced by the inherent vice of the bleaching powder.

But supposing the breakage to have taken place on the voyage and to come within the exceptions of the Bill of Lading, the plaintiff's Counsel contends that negligence must be inferred unless rebutted by the Defendant. This is not so. Once damage is brought within the exceptions of the Bill of Lading, it lies upon the Plaintiff to show negligence before he can recover. The Court below sitting as a Jury has found that no negligence was proved, and even if I disagreed with this finding, which I do not, I should be very loath to disturb the verdict of the Court, as it had all the witnesses before it.

The judgment below is therefore affirmed with costs.

NICHOLAS J. HANNEN.

*Acting Chief Justice*.

BETWEEN THE JAVA SEA AND FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY and the SECOND COLONIAL SEA and FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY by J. P. VON HEMER, *Plaintiffs and Appellants,*

and

FRANCIS AUGUSTUS COPE, *Defendant and Respondent.*

#### JUDGMENT.

This is an appeal from Her Britannic Majesty's Court at Kanagawa and I am of opinion that it must be dismissed with costs.

I fully agree with the court below that where a charge of fraud is relied upon either by plaintiff or defendant, it must be distinctly raised by the pleadings. The counsel for the plaintiffs and appellants argues that the course of pleading in Her Majesty's Courts in China and Japan precluded the plaintiffs from alleging fraud in reply to the defendant's answer, but it is to be observed that Rule 56 only says that no further pleading after answer shall be allowed "except by special leave of the court." Leave might have been applied for to file a reply to the answer if the plaintiffs intended to rely upon fraud, or as was suggested by Mr. Wilkinson the petition might have been amended.

I can only say that the judgment does not appear to me to be contrary to the evidence but fully in accordance with it, there being no evidence to rebut that of Captain Winsor, of the defendant and of Mr. Becker who swore that a distinct agreement was made with Captain Winsor that the commission was to be five per cent.

Having come to this conclusion upon the above two points there remains no further point of law to be determined so far as the Plaintiff's and Appellant's petition of appeal is concerned, but with regard to the answer in appeal I must not be taken as over-ruling the defendant's and respondent's preliminary objection that the appeal should be dismissed on the ground that security was not given within the prescribed time. The objection seems to me to be a very strong one, but having arrived at the above conclusion upon the merits it becomes unnecessary to give a decision upon the technical objection. Judgment affirmed with costs.

[L.S.] NICHOLAS J. HANNEN,  
*Acting Chief Justice.*

IN THE U. S. CONSULAR GENERAL COURT.

Before Gen. T. B. VAN BUREN, *Consul-General.*

Wednesday, 23rd. Nov., 1881.

OSAKI v. MARIANS & Co.

This case was adjourned from yesterday.

Mr. Shimeozu again appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. Weiller for the defendants.

Mr. Shimeozu said he had brought two more witnesses and requested that they might be examined.

Achemoto warned said:—I went with Osake to Mr. Marian's office on the 4th. inst. I saw the defendant. Mr. Osake asked Mr. Marian whether the skins had arrived. Mr. Marian said he did not know. This was in Mr. Omya's store. Mr. Ishisake was also with us. Mr. Osake went first to Mr. Marian's store. We returned as soon as Mr. Marian had answered Mr. Osake. The conversation was in Japanese. No one but ourselves was present at the time. I think it was a cloudy day. I am certain it was on the 4th. inst. It was on a Monday.

I have not talked minutely with the plaintiffs about our going there on the 4th. instant. I talked with them two or three times about it. The plaintiffs told me they were going and asked me to go with them. The attorney for the plaintiff told me to come here. Mr. Osake did not speak to me last night. This case has been talked about in Mr. Omya's store but I do not know what has been said. Nothing was said about the day of the month. I did not make a written memo about going to Mr. Marian's store.

Schenasake warned said:—I am a dealer in foreign clothing. I know Mr. Marian. I went to Mr. Marian's store with Mr. Osake on the 4th. inst. Mr. Osake asked if the rabbit skins had arrived. Mr. Marian said he did not know Mr. Achemoto was with us.

Mr. Weiller cross-examined but elicited nothing further than what had been stated by Achemoto. The witness was somewhat rambling and incoherent and did not appear to appreciate the searching catechism he was subjected to.

Mr. Weiller then addressed the court and called attention to the great discrepancy between the allegation contained in the petition and the evidence given by the plaintiff and his witnesses, and also to the manner in which they had contradicted one another, and concluded by urging that judgment might be given for the defendant.

His Honor called the attention of the counsel for the prosecution to the imperfect manner in which his case had been stated and explained the law relative to contracts.

Judgment reserved; court adjourned *sine die*.

Friday, November 25th, 1881.

#### JUDGMENT.

This action, brought in the name of Osaki Yoshisuke, as sole plaintiff, is to recover damages for the non-delivery of 300 dozen rabbit skins, according to the terms of an alleged contract between said plaintiff and Mr. Morris Marians of the defendants' firm. The evidence discloses the fact that Osaki was an *employé* of Omiya Yeisuke, and that the latter was therefore the true plaintiff. As, however, it was contended that both men were more or less interested, the complaint was by consent of defendant's counsel, amended by adding Omiya as a plaintiff.

The evidence established the fact that a verbal contract was made between the parties on the 26th of October last, for the purchase and sale of 300 rabbit skins, to arrive on the 3rd of the present month. The defendants were to furnish, and the plaintiffs to receive and pay for them at the rate of five dollars and forty cents per dozen.

The plaintiffs caused a writing, in Japanese, to this effect, to be written, and sealed with Omiya's seal, and delivered to defendants, and defendant delivered to them two dozen rabbit skins, as samples, with which to compare those contracted to be delivered.

I have no doubt that such a contract under the existing state of the law under which we citizens of the United States are living here, was legal and binding upon the defendants.

No statute of frauds exists here—"more's the pity," and therefore no memorandum signed by defendants or a part payment by the plaintiffs, was necessary.

While therefore such character of contracts are not illegal, they are not looked upon with favor by our Courts, on account of the difficulty they entail in getting at the exact terms.

It is somewhat difficult for instance, in the verbal agreement under consideration, to judge whether the time of the expected arrival of the goods was intended to be material.

Some discrepancy exists in the evidence, as to when they did arrive—one of the plaintiffs saying the vessel anchored in the harbour at 9.30 of the evening of the 3rd inst., and one of the defendants, that she reached here on the 4th, and this latter is the date given in the public prints. It is clear that the skins were not obtained possession of by the defendants until the 5th, and that on the afternoon of that day, they sent a message to that effect, to the plaintiffs.

The boy who carried this message says that he told Osaki that Mr. Marians wanted him to come at once to his place, to which Osaki replied that the day was unpleasant, and asked the messenger to state to Marians, that he (Osaki) was not at home.

He did not go to defendant's place, nor did his co-plaintiff, or any one on their behalf, and the defendants waiting until after business hours, and receiving no call from the plaintiffs, sold the skins to a third party.

This course was taken, as is stated by Mr. M. Marians, for the reason that on several previous occasions of contracts with the same parties, goods had been left upon their (defendants') hands or they had been obliged to reduce the contract price. Having therefore an opportunity of selling the skins at a higher price than agreed to be paid by the plaintiffs, they disposed of them, after giving the plaintiffs a reasonable opportunity of taking them.

The fifth of the month it appears, was Saturday, the next day of course being Sunday, a *dies non*. On Monday, at about 11 o'clock, the plaintiffs demanded of defendants, the delivery of the goods, but made no tender of the price.

What is to be considered a "reasonable time," as used in this connection, is difficult to determine. The manner in which contracts of this nature are so frequently violated in this community, without apparent remedy, has inclined me to look upon the efforts of a merchant, not positively illegal, for his own protection, with complacency. What might be considered sharp practice where mercantile integrity is held in more value than money capital, may here be looked upon as natural acts of self defence.

Osaki and two witnesses, who profess to have gone with him, testify that they visited defendants' place on the 4th inst., and asked for the skins. This is positively denied by Mr. Marians and his banto.

The evidence is directly conflicting. The witnesses on the part of the plaintiffs maintained their positions, notwithstanding a rigid cross-examination by the court, insisting that this visit was made on the 4th of the month, but one of them, on being asked, what day of the week it was, stated it was on Monday and the other was unable to say, what day.

Monday was the 7th, on which it is admitted on all sides, a demand for the skins was made at defendants' place.

I am inclined therefore to believe, that the visit and demand referred to by these witnesses, was that of the 7th, and that no such demand was made on the 4th. But, all things considered, I do not consider the fact very material.

No tender of the contract price was made by the plaintiff, on either day. Such tender is material to be shown in order to recover damages.



"The payment or tender of the price is, in such cases, a condition precedent, implied in the contract of sale, and the buyers cannot take the goods, or sue for them, without payment; for though the vendee acquires a right of property by the contract of sale, he does not acquire a right of possession of the goods, until he pays or tenders the price." *2nd Kent*. 493.

It is therefore clear that, under, the evidence, the plaintiffs cannot maintain their action: First the goods did not arrive on the 3rd, and the contract was of no effect, and second, no tender of the price was made by the plaintiffs.

I wish the court had the power of punishing both parties, for entering into such loose and indefinite contracts. Hardly a day passes but the determination of just such contracts occupies the time and attention of some of the numerous courts in Yokohama, and although, on a multitude of occasions, these different courts have commented on their vagueness and uncertainty, and counselled more care in their preparation, no improvement seems to have been made, and the old ways are pursued.

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," is an old proverb, and it is never more forcibly illustrated than in the matter of contracts.

The complaint is dismissed, and the plaintiffs ordered to pay costs.

The sample skins deposited in court will be returned to the defendants.

(Signed) THOS. B. VAN BUREN,

*Consul-General and Judge of the Court*

IN H. I. G. M. CONSULAR COURT.

Before ED. ZAPPE Esq., *Consul*.

F. VON FISCHER Esq. and M. BUECHARD Esq.,  
*Assessors*.

Monday, 28th. November 1881.

ED. FISCHER & Co., v. JULIUS MANNICH & Co.,

This case was adjourned on the 17th. instant when the further hearing was fixed for to-day.

Mr. Weiller again represented the plaintiffs. The defendants appeared in person.

After several witnesses had been examined the court was adjourned until the 7th. December on which date judgment will be given.

Friday, December 2nd., 1881.

ED. FISCHER & Co. v. JULIUS MANNICH & Co.

This case was adjourned until to-day when judgment was given.

The plaintiffs' claim consisted of the following items:—\$515.71 for 250 cases kerosine; \$428.83 advanced in cash to the master of the schooner *August Reimers* belonging to defendant; \$296.82 to cover the short proceeds of the sale of a consignment of sugar on which plaintiffs had advanced \$16,000; \$18.90 for difference of exchange between Yokohama and Takao. Beside this, plaintiffs claim the cost of the bill of exchange protest amounting to \$4 for a draft of \$1,259.77 drawn on defendant, which was not accepted and returned under protest.

To this demand the defendants opposed a claim of \$1,559.27 as being the amount of

damage done to them by plaintiffs through the sale of a consignment of 4,600 bags of brown Takao sugar.

After summing up the evidence and reviewing fairly and impartially the arguments adduced on both sides, the court ordered the defendants to pay the plaintiffs firm \$1,259.77 (say one thousand two hundred and fifty nine dollars seventy seven cents), with 6 per cent. interest from 12th. June 1881, also \$4 for draft, and to pay the costs of the proceedings.

IN THE NETHERLAND'S CONSULAR COURT.

Before F. G. SCRIBE, Esq., *Acting-Consul*.

J. WOLFS Esq. and C. W. REYNDEES Esq.,  
*Assessors*.

Thursday, Dec. 1st., 1881.

SEPTIMUS SHORT v. J. P. VON HEMERT.

This case was adjourned on the 2nd. Nov. until to-day in order that the court might have time to consider its judgment.

Mr. Lowder again represented the plaintiff and the defendant appeared personally.

The court opened at the 10 a.m. when the president read the following

JUDGMENT.

The Netherlands Court at Yokohama has delivered the following judgment in the case of Septimus Short v. J. Ph. Von Hemert.

The plaintiff states in his petition of 12th. Sept. 1881:—

That he is in possession of ten debentures payable to bearer of five hundred dollars each issued the 13th. August 1873 by the manager of the Grand Hotel, No. 20 Yokohama and secured by the furniture of the said establishment. That the defendant J. Ph. Von Hemert put the said furniture up to sale without the consent of the plaintiff who, by this act, has lost the security for his debentures.

That moreover he has never received any money resulting from this sale.

He therefore prays the Netherlands Court to enforce payment from Von Hemert of the value of ten debentures belonging to the plaintiff, in all, five thousand dollars, together with interest on such other sum as the court may adjudge.

The defendant J. Ph. Von Hemert admits that he pressed for the sale of the furniture of the Grand Hotel which met with no legal opposition either on the part of the shareholders or of the custodians of the security, and further that he became possessed of the said furniture, but by a rightful title.

He therefore prays the Netherlands Consular tribunal to nonsuit the plaintiff and to condemn him to pay seven hundred and fifty dollars for expenses and damages.

Having seen and examined our order for the appearance of the parties before the consular court dated 19th. October 1881.

Having seen the other documents in the case:

Having heard the parties and a witness: Considering as matters of fact, that Septimus Short is in possession of ten debentures payable to bearer secured by furniture; that the said furniture used in the Grand Hotel No. 20 Yokohama was put up for sale in June 1878 and that the defendant Von Hemert became the possessor of it

And as to the question: whether the defendant Von Hemert is or is not responsible towards the plaintiff for the results of the alienation of the said security:

Considering as a point of law, that a lien on furniture (Art. 1196 *et seq.* *Netherlands Civil Code*) can only exist if the furniture constituting the creditors' security has been placed and has remained in the possession of the said creditor or of a third person agreed on by the parties.

That thus, in this instance, from the moment when the defendant Von Hemert was able to enter into possession of the said furniture with a rightful title, the security of the debenture holders was annulled.

And whereas in virtue of Art. 585 *et seq.* of the same code the holder of furniture at once becomes possessor without any possible recourse, dispute, or claim by the simple fact of being in possession in good faith and by legal means.

And whereas in this instance no doubt can be cast on these conditions of good faith and legality:

That in fact Von Hemert in pressing for the sale of the furniture of the Grand Hotel had the consent of all the debenture holders as well as of the custodians of the security.

That the letter addressed by John Grigor to Von Hemert on the very day of the sale cannot be considered as a real opposition.

That to be of avail an opposition should have been offered in one of the forms provided by the law (*Saisie-arret ou Saisie-opposition*) and that moreover at a later date the said John Grigor gave to the defendant Von Hemert complete approval and discharge as appears from the agreement of the 12th. May 1879.

That therefore the sale of the furniture of the Grand Hotel, that is to say, the alienation of the security of the debenture holders has been ratified by themselves as well as by the custodians of the said security, and also by John Grigor attorney for the plaintiff Septimus Short and conformably to the declaration of the latter dated 7th. April 1881, holder at the time of the sale of the ten debentures which are the subject matter of the present action.

Considering lastly, that it is established by the documents produced in evidence that sixty-seven debentures were still in circulation at the time when Von Hemert paid for his purchase of the furniture of the Grand Hotel, and that the funds were distributed by him among the holders of the said debentures:

That in consequence all the debentures relating to the furniture of the Grand Hotel were paid off in proper time by the defendant, and that according to conditions duly agreed on before hand by the parties.

For these reasons:—

The Netherlands Consular Court declares that the defendant became possessor in good faith and by legal means in conformity with Art. 587 of the *Netherlands Civil Code* and non-suits the plaintiff Septimus Short, condemning him to pay the costs of the court.

Thus done and adjudged at a public sitting of the Netherlands Consular Court composed of F. G. Scribe Consul and president, Messrs. Wolfs and Reyndees assessors, the 1st. December 1881.

(Signed) F. G. SCRIBE, *President*.

" J. WOLFS,

" C. W. REYNDEES,

IN H.B.M. COURT FOR HIOGO AND OSAKA,  
AT HIOGO.

(Hioo News Report.)

Before W. G. ASTON, Esq., Acting Consul and Judge.

Friday, the 2nd day of December, 1881.

REGINA (on the prosecution of WATANABE MAKITA, Acting Superintendent of Customs) versus THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

The summons in this case had been made returnable on the preceding Wednesday, but when then called on the hearing was postponed at the request of the defendants.

Mr. Creagh now appeared for the Customs authorities

Mr. Montague Kirkwood appeared for the Bank, and stated that he was not yet aware whether defendants were before the Court or not.

Mr. Creagh remarked that they had already appeared on the previous occasion, and that the case had been simply postponed to suit their convenience.

Mr. Kirkwood did not know whether they were there as accused or defendants, so that it was impossible for him to say whether they pleaded guilty or not guilty.

The summons was then read, the effect of which was that the defendants were called upon to shew cause why three boxes of treasure belonging to them should not be confiscated for being dealt with contrary to regulation III of the regulations under which trade between Great Britain and Japan is conducted; to wit, for containing prohibited articles.

Mr. Kirkwood thought it was the duty of the prosecutor to state distinctly whether or not the Bank was treated as accused or defendants. The proceedings were entirely distinct. If criminal the Bank could not give evidence, but if civil they could.

Mr. Creagh remarked that the Customs' authorities simply claimed the confiscation of certain packages, and the proceedings were brought under section 91 of the Order in Council.

Mr. Kirkwood said the Court could not proceed summarily in a charge of infringing the Treaty as a criminal charge. It was a trial of an offence.

Mr. Creagh said the Bank was not accused of anything. The Custom House officers had found prohibited articles in certain boxes of treasure, and claimed to have the boxes confiscated.

His Honour said that if there were no offence there could be no confiscation. He had not yet heard that Mr. Kirkwood contended it was not right to claim on account of an offence.

Mr. Creagh remarked that the mode of procedure was only pointed out by Section 91.

Mr. Kirkwood understood the charge was to be dealt with as a criminal charge, and that being the case he had several preliminary objections to take. First, as to the form of the summons. The form is not known to the Court or to the rules of the Court. The mode of procedure laid down in all criminal charges will be found in the Supreme Court Rules. Rule 281 states that "in every case, whether the charge is or is not such as may be heard and determined in a summary way, the Court shall proceed if the accused is not already in custody, either by way of summons to him (Form 32), or by way of warrant for his apprehension in the first instance (Form 33), according as the nature and circumstances of

the case require." Form 32 should therefore in this instance be followed, which has not been done. The order to appear does not order the defendants to appear in the name of Her Majesty, which is necessary in any criminal charge. Further, the defendants are ordered "to shew cause." This form cannot be entertained by this Court. How can the defendants be asked to shew cause on a criminal charge why they are not guilty? It is for the prosecution to prove them guilty. There has been no sworn statement as mentioned in the Rules, and the defendants are not called upon to shew cause. Rule 151 governs and defines such orders, which can only be made in civil cases and after certain proceedings are filed.

The next objection was to the Custom House proceeding under the 91st Section of the Order in Council. Section 84 states that if any British subject in China or Japan violates any Treaty, &c., [The learned gentleman quoted the section in full] he shall be deemed guilty of an offence against the Treaty, and on conviction thereof under this Order shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding the penalty stipulated for in the treaty." Section 86 defines the penalties. [Quoted] They are thus limited to imprisonment for any term not exceeding three months, with or without hard labour, and with or without a fine not exceeding \$500, or a fine not exceeding \$500, without imprisonment. It is apparent that the claim made in this case is for a breach of treaty, the punishment is limited to \$500, and therefore the matter cannot be dealt with under Section 91.

Article XIX of the treaty distinctly mentions penalties. [Quoted].

The third objection is that if the Court decides it has jurisdiction to proceed under Section 91 of the Order in Council, then the Court, being a Provincial Court, is limited in powers of punishment to a fine of \$1,000 under Section 71. It appears therefor that if the Court proceeds summarily under Section 91, it cannot comply with article VII. of the Austro-Hungarian Treaty. Further, if the case is dealt with under Section 91 in a summary criminal way, there is not under the Rules, any power to grant a special case. He could not deny the Court's jurisdiction, but he denied its power to proceed criminally when punishment was over \$1,000. If the case is brought civilly there is no limit to the Court's jurisdiction; criminally there was. Again, as to form he would refer to Rule 282. The present was not a sworn statement, but a summons not known to and without precedent in any British Court in China or Japan.

His Honour disclaimed any responsibility as to the form of the summons. It had been prepared from information furnished by the Superintendent of Customs, and he experienced much difficulty in ascertaining what was actually wanted. As to the Court's jurisdiction, he considered that, although the amount exceeded \$1,000, the Court had jurisdiction in cases involving a breach of the Treaty.

Mr. Creagh said that the defendants had claimed the benefit of the Austro-Hungarian Treaty, Article VII. of which stated that "any case involving a penalty or confiscation" should be tried by the consular authorities. There was clearly no limit. Under the Treaty with Great Britain the Japanese Government could have confiscated these boxes without taking any proceedings. The Austro-Hungarian Treaty provided for these claims being settled by the consul; the defendants being British subjects had claimed the benefit of this provision under the favoured

nation clause in the Treaty with Great Britain, and they could not limit its effect under the Order in Council. The Austro-Hungarian Treaty was also subsequent to the Order in Council.

Mr. Kirkwood said he was quite aware there was no limit in civil cases.

Mr. Creagh:—I presume you appear for the Bank now?

Mr. Kirkwood:—I do not know at present, but I take exception to the proceedings going on.

His Honour:—Have you decided whether the case should be brought in the form of a criminal charge?

Mr. Creagh:—I do not contend anything. I am prepared to accept your Honour's ruling for the purpose of forwarding the case.

His Honour:—Will you alter the summons?

Mr. Kirkwood:—We are here to shew cause. It is not for me to suggest to the other side how they should charge us.

Mr. Creagh:—The Trade Regulations speak of articles being forfeited to the government. Nothing is said as to the charge being criminal. Section 91 of the Order in Council merely defines the mode of procedure; that is, the same as in a summary criminal charge. The Custom House makes a claim, it is for the defendants to shew why the claim should not be granted.

His Honour:—The Bank is charged with a breach of the Regulations.

Mr. Creagh:—Yes. With trying to pass prohibited articles.

His Honour:—Perhaps the summons should be a little more distinct, or a writ of error might be granted to upset all the proceedings.

Mr. Creagh thought it would answer all purposes if the summons were altered to shew that the Bank tendered the goods for shipment. He had not seen the summons until after it had been issued.

His Honour:—I supplied the Superintendent of Customs with a form of summons, but he took no notice of it.

Mr. Kirkwood:—I shall refuse to accept any amendment until it is served upon me.

Mr. Creagh:—I must then ask for an adjournment.

His Honour then adjourned the court for half an hour.

On resuming a new summons issued in the meantime was read, in which the defendants were charged with attempting, on the 7th of October, 1881, to ship three packages of goods, to wit three boxes of treasure, containing prohibited articles.

Mr. Kirkwood said he now appeared as counsel for the Bank, and would plead *not guilty*.

Mr. Creagh said the proceeding could be considerably curtailed if the defendants would make certain admissions.

Mr. Kirkwood asked what admissions.

Mr. Creagh:—First, that uncoined Japanese gold was in the boxes.

Mr. Kirkwood:—I admit uncoined gold was in the cases, but not Japanese gold.

Mr. Creagh:—That these two documents were presented on behalf of the Bank at the Custom House for the purpose of procuring the shipment of the three boxes.

Mr. Kirkwood:—I do not admit that.

Mr. Creagh:—Then I may just as well go on and prove my case in the ordinary way. May it please your Honour: On the 7th of last October seven boxes of treasure were brought to the Custom House for shipment, and two applications in the ordinary form signed on behalf of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. From information they had

received the Custom House officials detained the boxes for examination. The Chinese employés of the Bank who brought the boxes returned to the Bank, and soon afterwards came back with Mr. Butt, the Accountant, who desired to know why the boxes were detained contrary to the regulations. These boxes were all sealed with the Bank's seal, and it had previously been the practice to pass boxes unopened when so sealed. The Customs' officer refused however on this occasion to part with the boxes, and Mr. Butt, went away. He subsequently returned with Mr. Longford and some others. After further conversation on the subject, it ended by the boxes remaining in the custody of the Customs, and they were opened the following day, when three of them were found to contain uncoined gold. The other four boxes have been returned to the Bank, and the present proceedings are brought for a confiscation of the three in which the uncoined gold was discovered secreted. Mr. Grigor, the Agent of the Bank, wrote subsequently that the treasure belonged to some Chinese, and the Bank disclaimed all responsibility. The Custom House however, refused to recognize any owner except the Bank, by whom the applications to ship had been made. The question really at issue seems to be whether uncoined Japanese gold is liable to confiscation or not. In considering this it is necessary to go back to the condition of affairs before any Treaties were made by Japan. Then the export of all articles was prohibited, and it follows that any permission to export must be derived from those compacts. Article X. of the Treaty with Great Britain says that "coins of all description (with the exception of Japanese copper coin), as well as foreign gold and silver uncoined, may be exported from Japan." As permission is specially given for the export of foreign gold, I contend that Japanese uncoined gold cannot be so exported, under the rule that "the express mention of one thing implies the exclusion of another." In support of this contention I refer to *Broom's Legal Maxims*, page 665. It is there stated that "where certain specific things are taxed, or subjected to any charge, it seems probable that it was intended to exclude everything else, even of a similar nature, and *a fortiori*, all things different in *genus* and description from those which are enumerated." Foreign uncoined gold being expressly mentioned, and native gold, uncoined, not mentioned, it follows from the rule referred to that the export of native uncoined gold is prohibited. Supposing merely for the sake of argument that there is any ambiguity in the meaning of the Treaty, I now refer to the intention of the framers of the Treaty.

His Honour:—Where is that to be found?

Mr. Creagh:—In the diplomatic correspondence respecting trade with Japan presented to Parliament. In a letter dated the 21st of February, 1860, from Sir Rutherford Alcock to Lord John Russell, it is said, referring to the export of kobangs, "I have never had any doubt that this was contrary to the spirit of the Treaty and the intention of the Contracting parties. Although it is stipulated in the Regulations of Trade, Article 7, that gold and silver coin may be imported free of duty, and in class IV., having reference to exports, it is again enumerated as an exception to the rule, which sanctions a duty of 5 per cent on all articles of Japanese produce, it is nowhere said that either gold or silver may be exported. And Mr. Harris, the American Minister, who framed the treaty upon which our own was,

with slight discussion or alteration, moulded, distinctly declares that it was never contemplated to make the export of gold and silver legal, with or without duty." [The book was handed in.]

Mr. Kirkwood:—I object to that being received in evidence. If the book is only referred to it is another thing.

Mr. Creagh said he was only referring to it at present, but considered he was entitled, under the circumstances, to show the intention of the framers of the treaty. He then continued:—Matters remained in the state mentioned until the tariff convention of 1866 was entered into. This tariff was substituted for the former, and is stated to be read with the first treaty, and, in fact to be taken as part of it. Class II., Duty Free Goods, of this new tariff is as follows:—"Gold and silver, coined. Gold, silver and copper uncoined, of Japanese production, to be sold only by the Japanese government at public auction." Thus, after this convention came into force, gold and silver coin could be exported, but Japanese uncoined gold, silver and copper could not be exported unless first sold by the Government at public auction. Now the only alteration since made as regards these metals, has been the removal of uncoined copper from Class II. to Class IV. which admits of its export upon payment of an *ad valorem* duty of 5 per cent. The way in which this was done has an important bearing upon the present case. The Japanese Foreign Minister sent a notification to the Representatives of the Treaty Powers announcing that the Government had determined "to place copper on the same footing with the other articles of trade, and allow the same to be freely exported at a duty of five per cent calculated *ad valorem*." Sir Harry Parkes acquiesced in this construction of the Treaty, and accepted the arrangement as a provisional measure, pending the sanction of the Home Government. This notification and Sir Harry Parkes' despatch concerning it appear published in the *Nagasaki Times*—then the official organ of the British Consulate at that port—on the 27th of March, 1869. [Handed in for inspection.] It is apparent that the framers of the Convention of 1866 treated Japanese gold, silver and copper, uncoined, as being all in the same category, and that they could not be legally exported unless first sold at public auction by the Japanese Government. When it was considered desirable to permit the export of uncoined Japanese copper without its being purchased at public auction from the Government, it had to be made the subject of a special notification and arrangement. No such notification and arrangement has been made as regards Japanese uncoined gold and silver, and they are now in precisely the same condition as Japanese uncoined copper was before being removed to Class IV., that is, only legally exportable after being sold at public auction by the Japanese Government. I admit, without any reserve, that the present case fails if it can be shown that the uncoined gold found in the boxes is either of foreign production, or been bought from the Japanese Government at public auction. I submit, however, that the responsibility of proving that that bullion comes within either of these exceptions lies upon the defendants. It is manifestly impossible that the Government could prove a negative of this kind. On this point I refer to *Taylor on Evidence*, Ed. 1878, page 344. It is there laid down that "the Legislature has adopted a principle, which the common law also recognises, and which may here be noticed as a second exception to

the general rule that the burden of proof lies upon the party who substantially alleges the affirmative. The exception is this, that when the subject matter of the allegation lies peculiarly within the knowledge of one of the parties, that party must prove it, whether it be of an affirmative or a negative character, and even though there be a presumption of law in his favour." This principle is surely in accordance with common-sense, and is illustrated in the passage following that quoted by a case which seems entirely on all fours with the present one, as it was also brought to recover a penalty. "Thus, where an action for penalties was brought under the old law, against a person for practising as an apothecary without a certificate, the plaintiff would, independent of this exception, have been bound to prove the want of a certificate; for first, though the allegation was made in a negative form, its proof was essential to the plaintiff's case, and next, the law might fairly presume that the defendant would not transgress the provisions of a statute; still, as the defendant was peculiarly cognisant of the fact, whether or not he had obtained a certificate, and if he had obtained one, could have no difficulty in producing it, the law, which is founded on general convenience, compelled him to do so." Upon the same principle exactly, it is peculiarly within the knowledge of the defendants if the uncoined gold found in the boxes is either of foreign production or has been sold at public auction by the Japanese Government, and they can have no difficulty in proving that such has been the case. I will now call the witnesses for the Custom House, and I submit that, for the reasons I have given, when supported by their evidence, the Customs' authorities will be entitled to a decision for the confiscation of the three boxes of treasure seized on the 7th. of October.

Mr. Creagh then called:—

George William Butt, who, being duly sworn, stated:—I am the Accountant of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. The signatures to those documents are mine. They are applications for permits to ship seven boxes of treasure on behalf of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, they are dated 7th. October. There is no mention in them of uncoined gold [applications handed in]. I did not go personally with the boxes to the Custom House. I went afterwards, because the Custom House officials wanted to open the boxes. I could not allow this on my own responsibility. On my return to the Bank I referred the matter to the Agent, and left it in his hands. This was on the 7th. October. I did not go back to the Custom House. I did not of my own knowledge know the boxes contained anything beyond the bullion specified in the application. I am not aware if I was told they did by any officer or employé of the Bank. I knew afterwards on the same day. I knew of the rumours of gold bars being in the boxes through an employé of the Bank.

Cross-examined by Mr. Kirkwood:—I do not know who packed the boxes, but believe the Chinese. Nobody told me the Chinese did it. Rokubi told me they were packed by the Chinese. I first saw the boxes on the 7th October, at the Bank, packed and sealed. I never saw the contents. When I applied for the permits I had no idea that anything but the coin as mentioned in the permits was in the boxes. I have no power of attorney to sign for the Bank. No proceedings have been taken against me for signing.

**Re-Examined:**—The Bank has shipped treasure at other times. I signed the applications in the routine of my duties.

Miaki, warned to speak the truth, stated:—I am chief of the examiners at the Custom House. On the 7th October seven boxes of treasure were brought from the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank to the Custom House. About 3.30 some Chinese came with the boxes to the examination place with applications for permit to ship. Those are the two applications. I had previously received orders to examine all boxes of treasure, and not these alone. In consequence of these instructions my suspicions were aroused and I took the weight of these boxes. One box marked to contain \$2,500 weighed more than it would have done if it contained \$2,500, and I ordered the Chinese to open all the boxes. The Chinaman said he could not do this of his own accord or for his own convenience, and he returned to his master to report. The same Chinaman returned in company with Mr. Butt. Mr. Butt said in English the treasure was not the property of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, but was sent in conformity with the statement made by the Chinese. He had sent for the Chinaman and requested me to wait until the Chinaman came. Soon after this Mr. Longford, Mr. Butt, another foreigner, and some Chinese all came together. I think the other foreigner was Mr. Grigor. Mr. Longford told me that the boxes did not belong to the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, and they could not say anything about what was in them. They did not know if anything was inside or not. At this time it was very late; too late for shipment, and Mr. Longford asked that they might be allowed to take them back. I think Mr. Longford in saying this acted as interpreter. Ogata, who had been to the Superintendent's house, returned at this moment. Ogata and Mr. Longford had a short colloquy, the purport of which I do not know exactly. When Mr. Butt came first he pointed out the Bank's seals on the boxes. When Mr. Longford's and Ogata's colloquy was finished, Ogata told me it was settled that the boxes should be left at the Custom House for the night. Mr. Butt and myself then took the weight of the boxes, and they were placed in the Bonded Warehouse and a watchman was put over them for the night. Mr. Butt asked me to defer opening the boxes. He made no other request. At 2.30 on the following day I opened the boxes in the presence of Mr. Aston, Mr. Creagh, Mr. Upton and some Chinamen. Box No. 1,268 contained a piece of uncoined gold, box 1,269 one piece, and box 1,190 22 pieces. When opening the third box it was nearly 3 o'clock and Mr. Aston went home. I handed over the gold to Ogata. Mr. Longford had said that the boxes were not the property of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank and they could not say if anything was inside or not.

**Cross-examined by Mr. Kirkwood:**—I received orders from Ogata on the morning of the 7th. October to examine all boxes of treasure carefully. These boxes were the first received after such instructions. Ogata gave no reasons. He had suspicions and told me to be careful. I do not know from what source Ogata received information that made him suspicious. The uncoined gold had no particular mark on it.

J. H. Longford, being sworn, stated:—On the 7th. October Mr. Aston was in the country, and Mr. Grigor, Mr. Butt and the Comptroller of the Hongkong Bank came to my house and told me there was a difficulty with the Customs in regard to the shipment of

some bullion; that some treasure had been placed in their hands as security for advances, and had been sent to the Custom House for shipment to Shanghai in charge of Chinese in the usual manner. The Chinese had returned to the Bank and said the Custom House wished to open the boxes and examine them. This being unusual Mr. Butt had gone down and enquired the reason, and at the same time had sent word to the owners of the treasure of what had happened. Mr. Butt went to the Custom House and the officials persisted in opening the boxes. He informed them the treasure was not the property of the Bank although in their charge; that they had advanced against it, and this being the case he could not give permission to open the boxes. Mr. Butt returned to the Bank; the messenger sent to the owners' house had also returned, and he stated the owners had gone to Osaka, but he had ascertained from some of the *employés* that in addition to the specie mentioned in the permit there was uncoined gold there. Mr. Butt reported this to Mr. Grigor, and the three came to consult me as to what was to be done. Mr. Grigor appeared much annoyed, and was anxious to impress upon the Custom House that the Bank was ignorant of gold being in the boxes beyond what was specified in the application for a permit. I went to the Custom House with him. The evidence of Miaki is incorrect in some particulars. I said to a Custom House official (it was 7 p.m., dark, and I could not now recognize him) that the Bank were not the owners, their interest being confined to having advanced upon it; that it was given to them as security, and being so held was shipped in their name; that they believed the boxes contained bullion, as specified in their application for the permit; that they had no knowledge when applying for the permit of anything being concealed in the boxes, and if upon examination anything was found, they would have nothing to do with it. I did not give the Custom House officers the benefit of the information already ascertained that uncoined gold was in the boxes. The officer who had come in while I was talking could not give any further answer than that he had seen the Superintendent and had been ordered to put the boxes in the godown for the night. I asked them to give a receipt, with the marks, and weight. What was stated as to my having asked that the boxes should be returned is entirely incorrect. Mr. Butt told me that when he went in the first instance and they wished to examine the boxes, he said he would take them back, as the owner was not there. I made no such request. I told them I belonged to the English Consulate. The Consul was away and I acted officially,—not as interpreter for Mr. Grigor.

The court adjourned until 9 a.m. on Saturday.

*Saturday, the 3rd day of December, 1881.*

Mr. Creagh called Ogata, who being warned to speak the truth, stated:—I am chief of the Entry Office, Japanese Customs, Kobe. I remember seven boxes of treasure being offered for shipment on 7th October. The usual application for a permit was made. Those are the applications. About 3 o'clock on 7th October the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank presented those two applications to the Entry Office of the Custom House. They were sent round to the Examining Room. About 3.30 Miaki reported to me that he had proposed to the Bank's messenger to open the cases. The

Bank's messenger replied that he must tell the Manager first, and he went away. About 4 o'clock Mr. Butt came with two Chinese. He said the seven boxes were not the Bank's property, and therefore he did not know what was inside. He wanted to take them back without passing them through the Custom House. I told him that although he declared it was Chinaman's property, it was stamped with the Bank's seals, and that it must be opened in the Custom House and then passed. I told Mr. Butt to bring the owner, and Mr. Butt told me he was away in Osaka and could not come to the Custom House. I then said the Custom House would take charge of the boxes in the Custom House Godowns, and when the Chinaman came, they could be opened in his presence. Mr. Butt said he would think it over, and went away. I had been to Mr. Takahashi's house and reported what had happened, and he instructed me to put the boxes in the godown. When I arrived at the Custom House it was about 6 o'clock and I found there a gentleman from the Consulate, I think Mr. Longford, Mr. Butt and another gentleman, I think Mr. Grigor, and two or three Chinamen. Miaki told me this was a gentleman from the Consulate, and introduced Mr. Longford. I then told Mr. Longford what had passed at Mr. Takahashi's house. I told him it was too late and the boxes would be kept, as I had been instructed by the Superintendent. Mr. Longford interpreted what I told him to the gentlemen from the bank, and asked me to give a receipt for the boxes placed in the godown. I told him I could not give a receipt for the amount stated, but could for weight. Mr. Longford said please have the boxes put in the godown and give receipt for weight. I think he went away first. In the presence of Mr. Butt and two Chinamen Miaki weighed the boxes and examined the seals. I put the weight down in my memo book and they were placed in the godown. Mr. Butt went away, telling me to give the receipt to the Chinamen. I made out the receipt in Japanese and English, and two boys were put to watch the boxes. On the next day we waited until 11 o'clock, and as no one came from the bank to be present at the opening of the boxes, we sent a verbal message to the Bank, asking them to be present when the boxes were opened. Some gentleman in the Bank told the messenger to speak to the Chinaman. We then wrote to the Bank to be present at 2.30 o'clock, when the boxes would be opened. At 2.30 Mr. Aston and Mr. Grigor came to the Custom House, and Mr. Aston asked me if I knew anything about the treasure boxes. I said yes. Mr. Grigor then told me (through Mr. Aston) that the boxes of treasure were not the property of the Bank, but belonged to a Chinaman, and therefore he could not tell what the boxes contained. They might contain something that was prohibited, but the Bank was not responsible for what they contained. I said, although you say the boxes were entrusted to you, the application was presented by the Bank, so that in the Custom House the Bank will be considered the owners of the boxes. Mr. Grigor showed me some letters and other papers from the Chinese, in proof that the owners were Chinamen. "I do not know what these meant. There were many and I do not remember. I asked whether the boxes were open or nailed up when they were brought to the Bank. Mr. Aston, as interpreter for Mr. Grigor, said they were open at that time. Mr.



Grigor said the application was made on the faith of the Chinaman's statements; he did not examine the contents. He said, as it was a serious matter, not to make the Bank's name public. I told him I would speak to Mr. Takahashi, but when the boxes were opened, if they contained something besides what was named in the application they would look to the Bank. I told him again the Custom House would not allow the boxes to be opened in the presence of Chinamen; some one from the Bank must be present. Mr. Grigor said that as the boxes did not belong to the Bank, no one from the Bank would be present. I told him unless some one from the Bank was present the Custom House could not open and examine the boxes. Mr. Grigor then said the Chinaman was not back from Osaka yet, the Bank had nothing to do with the boxes, and the Custom House might open them or not as they liked. I then said I should do so. Mr. Aston, Mr. Grigor and Mr. Upton stopped a few minutes and then went away. I have stated all I recollect, but it being a long conversation I may have forgotten some of it. I requested Mr. Aston to ask Mr. Grigor to make a written statement addressed to the Superintendent of Customs. I had the boxes opened in presence of Mr. Aston, Mr. Upton, Mr. Creagh and two or three Chinamen. In the first box opened there was a gold bar. I was not present at the opening of the other boxes. After all were opened, twenty-four pieces, bars or lumps of gold, were found. They weighed in all 23lb. 12oz. I had the gold wrapped up in paper in six packages and stamped with my seal over the edges, and left them with Fukuda, the Cashier. On the 14th some one from the Mint, I do not know who, came down and examined the gold. I found my stamp the same. The packets were opened and the gold shown and then it was repacked as before. This was done in my presence and I again sealed. On the 22nd, when the three boxes were to be sealed by the British Consulate, I told Fukuda to bring out the gold, and the six packages were put in box 1,190. I examined the seals on the packages and found them untampered with and the same as before. The three boxes were sealed in presence of Mr. Miles of the British Consulate.

Cross-examined by Mr. Kirkwood:—I gave instructions to Miaki to examine all boxes of treasure brought to the Custom House on the 7th October. I think between 12 and 1 o'clock. I was instructed to do so by the Superintendent on that day. I do not know that Mr. Takahashi received a letter on that or a previous day which induced him to give those instructions. I have not seen any letter. I was not present when any information was given which induced the Custom House to open the boxes. I heard by report afterwards. I was not told afterwards what led to the opening of the boxes. I do not know who I heard give the report. I do not know who gave information which led to suspicion as to the contents. Mr. Takahashi is in Tokio. I do not know that he has taken all documents with him. Mr. Watanabe is in charge of the Custom House. I do not know if he keeps all correspondence. I was present when the first box was opened. Afterwards I was sometimes present and sometimes not. I did not see the contents of all the boxes. I was sometimes in the room, sometimes out of it. I took the gold. One box was opened and the contents were, I think, replaced before a second box was opened, and so on. The gold taken out of the first box was not

replaced in it. All the gold was not taken out of the first box opened. When I received it from Miaki I made it up into six packages. Fukuda packed it. I was present. There was no particular reason for making six packages. They were about the size of the paper. All six are now in box 1,190, in the Custom House. The other two boxes have no uncoined gold now. The six packages were placed in box 1,190 because there was room. All the boxes were full when they came to the Custom House. When the boxes were opened and gold was taken out, the coins were not repacked in the same manner; some boxes had space to spare, some had none. There was room in box 1,190, and we did not open the others. Fukuda had charge of the gold, and I think he kept it in the safe. Mr. Miles was present when the gold was put in box 1,190.

Mr. Creagh then asked if the Court took judicial notice of the Treaties and Conventions.

His Honour:—Yes, of those entered into with Great Britain, but not of the Austro-Hungarian Treaty.

Mr. Creagh:—The proceedings are taken under it, as the defendants claimed the benefit of it under the favoured nation clause. I understand then that the British Treaty of 1866, and Sir Harry Parkes' correspondence respecting copper are within the judicial notice of the Court?

Considerable discussion here ensued, and it was ultimately decided by the Court that the correspondence respecting copper and the letter of Sir Rutherford Alcock mentioned by Mr. Creagh in his opening could not be admitted in evidence unless proved in the ordinary way. Mr. Creagh then mentioned that the gold could not be produced in Court, because, under the Austro-Hungarian Treaty, it had to remain in the godowns of the Custom House until a decision was given. He also said he had finished his case.

Mr. Kirkwood said that his task had been greatly facilitated by the course adopted by the prosecution. He thought a much stronger case would have been made out than had been, although he was at a loss to know why an attempt to ship is an offence for which the Bank should be punished. As Mr. Creagh had sat down and had no further witnesses, he had no further right to address the court. He had been a good deal surprised by the way in which the Custom House had dealt with the case. The Bank had been charged with a crime or an offence, and it had clearly been shown by the witnesses for the prosecution themselves, that the Bank were entirely innocent of having anything to do with placing the gold in the boxes. But even if the gold were put in, it was put in foolishly, was therefore no offence, and consequently not punishable. What object the Chinese had, or what was the effect of the gold being in the boxes, was not to be considered. It was the intention of the Bank when applying for the permits which was the true element in the case. If they had no intention to apply for the shipment of what was not specified in the application, then there could be no offence. I shall call witnesses simply for the purpose of showing that the Bank is innocent of all improper intention in the matter. It is also necessary for me to shew how it was that suspicion arose on the 7th. of October; how the Custom House officials thought it their duty to adopt the unusual course of detaining the Bank's boxes. I may state that the way in which these suspicions were aroused has met with general condemnation in

commercial circles in the East. It is my duty to show the actual facts connected with these unusual proceedings. The charge is for attempting to ship gold in boxes. Your Honour will observe the material part of the summons is short and simple, "Attempt to ship." Now the form of the summons is most extraordinary. To begin with there is no evidence of there being any irregularity in an attempt to ship sufficient to convict. Before there could be any conviction the attempt to ship must be proved. In the next place there was no evidence adduced to show what had been attempted to be shipped. No single statement had been made to show what the Custom House really wanted—

Mr. Creagh was sorry to interrupt, but must recall that they asked for a confiscation of the three boxes.

Mr. Kirkwood:—Not since the court recommenced. The present case commenced at 3.30 o'clock and there had been no application for a confiscation.

Mr. Creagh remarked that he had mentioned the matter in his opening.

Mr. Kirkwood:—I do not think so. The summons ordered the defendants to appear and be dealt with according to law, so the Court had to deal with the Bank and not with the goods. The only point made at all was that the gold was Japanese uncoined gold. I would like to know where Japanese uncoined gold is prohibited from exportation. The English Treaty nowhere prohibits it. Foreign gold is mentioned, but there is nothing at all about Japanese uncoined gold. Whatever appears in the English Treaty must be read in connection with the Convention of 1866, in accordance with the first two articles thereof. Now the Tariff attached to the Convention of 1866 contains in the clearest possible manner four classes. In the Import Tariff gold and silver coined and uncoined appear among duty free goods. In the Export Tariff we find as prohibited goods:—rice, paddy, wheat and barley, flour and saltpetre. We also find under the head of Duty Free Goods, gold and silver, coined, gold, silver and copper uncoined, of Japanese production, to be sold only by the Japanese Government at public auction. Now, if it had been the intention to prohibit the export of Japanese uncoined gold the first article in the list of prohibited goods, the first and most important, would as I contend have been Japanese uncoined gold. The fact of its not being prohibited is made clearer by the words at the end of the Class subject to an *ad valorem* duty of five per cent., where it speaks of all other unenumerated goods being exportable. Considerable stress has been laid upon the fact that this is Japanese uncoined gold, and it is alleged that the onus is cast upon me to prove that it is foreign gold, or Japanese gold sold at auction. Now the quotation made by Mr. Creagh from *Taylor* had no application to the present case, but was one about a person being sued for acting as an apothecary without a certificate. The penalty was in that case sued for civilly, and it was not a criminal proceeding. I will refer to a portion of the same work which does apply, and shows that the *onus probandi* lies with the prosecution. In *Taylor on Evidence*, sec. 338, it is stated that "on the twofold ground that a prosecutor must prove every fact necessary to substantiate his charge against a prisoner, and that the law will presume innocence in the absence of convincing evidence to the contrary, the burden

of proof, unless shifted by legislative interference, will fall in criminal proceedings on the prosecuting party, though, in order to convict, he must necessarily have recourse to negative evidence. Thus, if a statute, in the direct description of an offence, and not by way of proviso, contain negative matter, the indictment or information must also contain a negative allegation, which must in general be supported by *prima facie* evidence." Now let us apply this rule in the present case. What is the allegation? It is that the Bank "attempted to ship prohibited articles." Now where are we? The only allegation has not been supported by evidence, and therefore must be considered as struck out. How then can your Honour convict, as there is nothing left for the Court to adjudicate upon? But further on in the same work the distinction is even more clearly shown [sec. 344 quoted]. Now in England the supreme difficulty of a prosecution proving a negative has been got over by legislative enactment. Thus the bare fact of a person being found in possession of a crow-bar, house-breaking implements, game out of season, &c., makes him bound to protect himself by showing the existence of some lawful authority or excuse. But this has been done by express statutory enactment. I rely upon the twofold ground that the prosecution must prove every fact upon which they rely. Nothing has been proved as required by Sec. 344, and over Sec. 347 the whole difficulty arises, owing to the course adopted by the Custom House in proceeding against the Bank in a summary criminal way. They might have asked in the ordinary way for the delivery up to them of certain boxes, but when they put the Corporation in the box as a prisoner, they must abide by the disadvantages attaching to such a course. I contend further that the Custom House have to show that the gold is not uncoined foreign gold, which they could easily have done. It must have struck the Court as peculiar that the Bank did not raise the defence that they are not the owners of the goods. This had been done by my advice. [The learned gentleman then argued at some considerable length that the Bank must be treated for legal purposes as owners of the boxes, contending that the true test was, who could maintain an action for trover. *Roscoe on Criminal Evidence*, page 830]. The point has not been raised, but it might suggest itself why the Bank had not raised any such plea. It was sufficient for the Bank to be bailee of the treasure for the advances made. For any such misconduct as that alleged, the only course for the Custom House was to proceed against the Bank. If there was any offence, and the Custom House proceeded against the Chinese, they must fail. In nine out of ten cases the owners of exported goods were absent, and the persons who took out permits were simply agents. The Bank has an interest in these boxes until their advances are paid off. The question for the Court to consider is narrowed down. The only question can be whether the Bank is entitled to the boxes or the Custom House. At present these boxes are in the Custom House godown under seal. What the Court has to decide is:—Has the Custom House established the grounds upon which they rely. If not, the boxes must be given back to the Bank. It will then be the duty of this Court to put the Bank back in their original position. If the Bank are not entitled to retain them, or get them illegally, the owners have redress. If the Bank are not treated as owners, they

have no practical redress against the Chinese for the advances made. I will only call a few witnesses for the purpose of proving that the Bank knew nothing whatever of any uncoined gold being in the boxes.

The court then adjourned until two o'clock.

On the court resuming Mr. Kirkwood called George William Thomson, who being sworn, stated:—I am the Agent in Kobe of the Oriental Bank Corporation. I was not absolutely aware on or prior to October 7th that certain boxes of treasure containing uncoined gold would be presented to the Custom House. I had strong suspicions. My suspicions with regard to illicit facilities granted by the other bank had been growing for a considerable time. On 7th October I was offering to buy on Shanghai at 73½, which was a better rate than the current rate at that time. On the 7th I bought \$10,000 on Shanghai at 73½, but to make my narration complete, I must mention that for several months I had been unable to buy a single Chinese bill. From the 1st Jan. to the 7th October, whatever rate I offered, I could not buy a single bill. The climax was reached on the 7th. I then settled one bill for \$10,000 at 73½, and I was pleased with the Compradore for settling this. The Compradore came to me again saying Hung Sung was shipping a good deal of treasure on that day, and as my rate was favorable, he would like to settle more with me. I asked what amount. He said a large amount. My next question was what was the nature of the treasure. My Compradore replied, subsidiary coins and gold, and he made the following proposition. He said, the Chinamen know that any boxes sealed by the Bank were not opened by the Custom House, and if I would consent to uncoined Japanese gold being put in, and would seal with the Bank seal in order that the boxes should not be opened, on those conditions he would bring any amount of bills I would receive. I told my Compradore that he ought to be ashamed to bring such a proposition to me. This explained why for many months I had been utterly unable to do any Chinese business. I had repeatedly written to the Bank's Managers in Yokohama, Shanghai and Hongkong to look out for a new Compradore. I communicated with the Custom House on that day verbally through the Bank's Accountant. I had strong reasons to suppose the treasure would be shipped by the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank on that day for this reason:—Upon my refusing the business, the Chinaman had said they could get it done by the other Bank. I did not speak direct with Hung Sung, but through my Compradore. I told Mr. Fraser to go to Mr. Upton and tell him exactly what had happened. This explained to my mind the facilities offered for shipping treasure. I thought the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank would probably ship the treasure. I expect to gain fair-play in business by the action I have taken. That is all. I have not asked for any personal reward. I could not do so. On behalf of the Bank I have. I had no idea at first that there was any reward. I learnt afterwards that half of it went to the informer. I claimed it on behalf of the Bank, so that this matter should be sifted to the bottom, and thus ensure a perfect scrutiny. I was not such an utter fool as to take any steps to caution the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank that the Chinese were trying to ship this treasure, as I believed it could only be done with their cognizance. I was not certain gold would be placed in the boxes, but I had no reasons for supposing the Chinese would approach the Hongkong and

Shanghai Bank in a different attitude than they had myself.

James Matheson Grigor, sworn, said:—I am the Agent in Kobe of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. On the 7th October seven boxes of treasure were brought to the Bank and an advance was asked for against them. I was not aware they contained anything beyond what was mentioned in the application. The Chinese have never proposed to me to ship treasure under a false declaration as to contents. The advances made against this treasure have not been repaid to the Bank. The approximate value of the gold is between \$7,000 and \$8,000. I have done nothing to release my right to the possession of the boxes.

Cross-examined by Mr. Creagh:—I cannot say on what day I first had knowledge that gold was in the boxes. I cannot say it was the day on which the boxes were seized. I cannot say it was on the 7th or 8th October. I cannot say whether it was before or after I went down to the Customs. I had no conversation with Mr. Longford until I went down to the Custom House. I was not present at any conversation when gold was spoken about. When I went down to the Custom House I was not aware why the boxes were detained. I do not contradict Mr. Longford. The conversation was between the Compradore and Mr. Longford. I cannot say at what hour I was told. I had no proof. I cannot say whether it was a short time or a long time before I went down to the Custom House. I did not tell the Custom House officers anything.

Ah Cheong, the Bank's Compradore, cautioned to speak the truth, stated:—On October 7th some Chinese brought seven boxes of treasure to the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. They told me they contained gold yen and subsidiary coins, and asked for \$25,000 advance on the security, which was to be sent to Shanghai. I looked at the treasure but did not take anything out of the boxes. I asked Mr. Grigor for \$25,000. The boxes were shut up at the Bank. I put on the Bank's seal and the coolies who had brought the boxes took them to the Custom House, and one Shroff went there also. The Chinamen did not tell me there was gold in the boxes. The three boxes now at the Custom House contain \$9,150 in silver. I know this from the memo, given to me.

Cross-examined by Mr. Creagh:—I am not in the habit of passing boxes of treasure without examination. I did so on this occasion. I had a memo, of the contents and the house is a good and honest one. It was between 3 and 4 o'clock. There was no time to spare to examine the boxes and I was not particular. I have been particular since.

A discussion now took place as to the right of reply, and His Honour ultimately ruled that nothing further could be said on either side. The court then adjourned until Tuesday, the 6th of December, at ten o'clock.

Tuesday, 6th December, 1881.

The Court now delivered the following  
DECISION.

The facts of this case are very simple. On the 7th October last, the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation sent three boxes of treasure to the Kobe Custom House for shipment to China. Each of these boxes, on being opened, was found to contain, in addition to the treasure described in the permit application, signed by an officer of the bank, a quantity of gold in bars. The customs' authorities seized the boxes and have now

charged the bank with an attempt to ship packages of goods containing prohibited articles. They rely on the following clause in the Trade Regulations, viz: "All packages which contain prohibited articles shall be forfeited to the Japanese government," and they seek to prove that uncoined gold is a prohibited article by a reference to the following item in the "Duty Free Goods" of the Export Tariff, viz: "gold, silver and copper, uncoined, of Japanese production, to be sold only by the Japanese government at public auction."

I find that the charge made against the bank has not been proved, for the following reasons:—

First: I do not consider that uncoined gold of Japanese production which has not been sold by the Japanese Government at Public Auction is an article of which the export is prohibited by the Tariff. Uncoined gold of any description does not appear in the class of Prohibited Goods in the Export Tariff, and the phrase "to be sold only by the Japanese Government at Public Auction," if a prohibition at all, is a prohibition not of its export, but of its sale. I regard it, however, not as a prohibition, but as an intimation to Foreign Powers, that the Japanese Government reserves to itself the right of making Japanese gold an exception to the general rule that articles of Japanese production might be freely sold to foreigners. That the Japanese Government intended to prevent free trade in native gold is, I think, unquestionable, but it seems clear to me, that their negotiators in framing the Tariff deliberately chose to rely on the internal control exercised by their Government over the produce of the gold mines of Japan, in order to prevent native gold from being sold through the ordinary channels of trade, and did not attempt to attain their object by a prohibition of its export. When it is remembered that an exporter would often find it difficult, or perhaps impossible, to ascertain whether uncoined gold brought to him for sale was or was not of Japanese production, it will be seen that the course adopted by the framers of the Tariff was a judicious and reasonable one. Secondly: Even if it be admitted that native uncoined gold which has not been sold by the Japanese Government at Public Auction is a prohibited article, no proof whatever has been offered by the prosecution in this case that the gold in question was of Japanese production, or that it had not been sold by the Japanese Government at Public Auction, nor does it appear from the evidence that the Customs' authorities before seizing the boxes of treasure took any steps to satisfy themselves that the uncoined gold contained in them really answered this description. I cannot see that there is any presumption of law or of fact in favor of this inference. Either of the above reasons is a sufficient defence to the charge of attempting to ship packages of goods containing prohibited articles, and it therefore becomes unnecessary for me to make any observations respecting the form which the proceedings in this case have assumed.

Mr. Creagh desired to mention that the Custom House would appeal.

His Honour:—I am quite prepared to consider any application on the subject. Under what would you appeal?

Mr. Creagh:—Under the provision in the Austro-Hungarian Treaty.

His Honour:—I do not think that I can consider the Austro-Hungarian Treaty in the matter, but I am quite prepared to hear anything you have to urge.

Mr. Creagh:—The whole proceedings have been under the provisions of that Treaty, and it distinctly states that if the Japanese Government are dissatisfied with the decision they may appeal.

Mr. Kirkwood:—I would point out that the Bank merely claimed the benefit of the Austro-Hungarian Treaty under the favoured nation clause, and are not affected by the provision for appeal. The Rules of the Supreme Court allow of no appeal by a prosecutor in a summary criminal case; it is the accused alone on conviction who can apply for a special case. There cannot be any appeal from the decision.

His Honour:—I do not think I can take cognisance of the Treaty, but I will consider any application.

Mr. Creagh:—I merely mention now that the Custom House will appeal.

Mr. Kirkwood:—I presume your Honour will not make any order as to costs?

His Honour:—No. I am not sure that I would be justified in granting costs. There has evidently been a grave irregularity.

Mr. Kirkwood:—The customs authorities will bear in mind that the three boxes must be immediately placed under the control of and at the disposal of the British Consul and this whether there be an appeal or not.

The Court then adjourned.

### TEN-CHI-JII.

By ARAI YOSHINARI, 1821.

#### IDEAS ABOUT THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH (METEOROLOGY).

It is a very easy thing to look up into the heaven, but it is unlimitedly high. It is also a very easy thing to touch the earth, but it is unlimitedly thick. We can not go into the heaven nor can we go down into the earth. For reasons like these, there had been no astronomical instruments (observations?) for many years after the creation. They were afterwards invented in the country called Jutania in Europe. In China, the reason of the eclipse was not explained until after many centuries, but in the 18th. year of Shigen in Gen (the name of ancient China), that is, 1281 A.D., it was understood clearly. Some astronomers have given their opinions about the motion of the earth, and some have given their opinions about the motions in the heavens. And the opinions about the rain or the wind, etc., all rest on the explanation of the male and female, or active and passive principles of nature. The rain is a changed form of the male principle of nature and the vapour under the earth is a changed form of the female principle. When the male principle sinks down into the earth it would pursue the female. The earth is the mother of all things and produces many things, but the heaven is but the air or wind where the sun, the moon, and the stars hang shining. The air is divided into two kinds. One is called the heaven-air and the other is called the earth-air. The motion of the heaven is contrary to the running of water. The heaven turns round from the east to the west, but the water runs from west to east. The running of water is different with regard to the elevation of local districts. In some districts, where the northern part is low, the water under the earth runs in a northern direction, but when it is obstructed by the earth-air which comes from the north it is greatly agitated and commences to evaporate out of the surface of the earth. This vapour goes up into the air

and is changed into cloud, which is also changed to the rain by the wind. The water has periods of increase and decrease according to the male and female seasons. It is increased during the summer months because it is then the male season, and it is diminished during the winter months because it is then the female season.

When the earth-air goes from east to west it is changed to rain, although it is not always so with regard to the temperature of the seasons. Therefore, previous to rain, white vapor is seen, in the morning, rising up in the east. This is a clear proof of the earth's growing hot. It is for the same reason that the mountains become somewhat darker than usual, previous to rain, because vapour is sent up from the earth. In the district which slopes gradually towards the east, the earth-air passes through the earth from east to west, and a sound or smell is produced in the earth, as if coming from east to west.

On the 17th. day of the 15th. month of the 9th. year of Bunkwa (1812 A.D.) it was very dark weather and hailed greatly but without thunder. This is an unusual occurrence. The thunder is produced by the intercourse of the male and female principles of nature. In the neighbourhood of Asama-yama in Shinshiu and the other volcanoes, on the day of thunder, sounds are heard underground. This is due to the irritation of the earth-air, by which flames are sometimes sent out. It is said that a kind of beast accompanies the thunder and it runs about in the air. It is nothing strange, because it is said that in the island called Ampon which belongs to the country called Darunada, distant about 3,900 ri from Japan, there are birds called Kasubara which are covered with fur-skin, instead of feathers; these eat fire; others feed on the wind. As this world is unlimitedly great and extensive there may have lived strange beasts or birds, like the thunder beast which we talk about.\*

The sound of thunder is just like that of a

\* The following passages from *Primitive Culture* by Tylor, vol. I., pp. 362 and 263, have a very interesting bearing on this portion of the paper.

"It has many a time occurred to the savage poet or philosopher to realize the thunder, or its cause, in myths of a thunder-bird. Of this wondrous creature North American legend has much to tell. He is the bird of the great Manitou, as the eagle is of Zeus, or he is even the great Manitou himself incarnate. The Assiniboinos not only know of his existence, but have even seen him, and in the far north the story is told how he created the world. The Ahts of Vancouver's Island talk of Tootooch, the mighty bird dwelling aloft and far away, the flap of whose wings makes the thunder (Tootah), and his tongue is the forked lightning. There were once four of these birds in the land, and they fed on whales; but the great deity Quawteah entering into a whale, enticed one thunder-bird after another to swoop down and seize him with its talons, when plunging to the bottom of the sea he drowned it. Thus three of them perished, but the last one spread his wings and flew to the distant height where he has since remained. The meaning of the story may perhaps be that thunderstorms come especially from one of the four quarters of heaven. Of such myths, perhaps, that told among the Dacotas is the quaintest: Thunder is a large bird, they say; hence its velocity. The old bird begins the thunder; its rumbling noise is caused by an immense quantity of young birds, or thunders, who continue it, hence the long duration of the peals. The Indian says it is the young birds, or thunders, that do the mischief; they are like the young mischievous men who will not listen to good counsel. The old thunder or bird is wise and good, and does not kill anybody, nor do any kind of mischief. Descending southward to Central America, there is found mention of the bird Voo, the messenger of Hurakan, the tempest-god (whose name has been adopted in European lan-

gun. The sound is heard after the lightning. When the quantity of water-clouds are very small in the heaven the sound of the thunder is also very small and is heard as if it were very far off, but when the water clouds are heaped up very much the sound and the lightening occur together. People should be afraid of the lightning but not of the sound because it comes after the lightning. The thunder is the sound of the fire which is produced at the time when it passes through the water-clouds in the heaven. When this sound passes through the clouds with great power it is said to be a quick, great, and dangerous kind of thunder; but when it goes through very slowly it is of a weak and small kind. The ancients thought that thunder was the fighting between the water and the fire in the heaven, with regard to the rule of the male and female principles of nature, but this is very doubtful. If it were the fighting of the water and the fire, there is no reason for there being a space of time between the lightning and the sound, and between the first thunder and the next. As it is wrought by the currency of the wind and the thickness of the clouds through which the thunder passes, there may be the different sounds and spaces of time. The earthquake is but little different from the thunder. In the time of the earthquake, some sound is to be heard underground previous to it, because it is caused by the water in the inside of the earth, which was compressed for a long time by the earth-air, beginning to run forth.

The wind is said, by the ancients, to be the air which is produced from the sea or mountain. This world has always wind, but there is no strong wind unless it comes from the sea or mountains. The wind is of two kinds. One, or the upper wind, runs southwards and the other or lower wind runs northwards. The former comes from some mountains or the sea, and the latter is caused by the earth-air. The snow is the vapour which rises up from the earth. When the vapour which has risen up from the earth becomes frozen by the cold it falls on the surface of the earth again in the form of snow. Fog is also vapour from the earth. Haze is the vapour which has been mixed with smoke produced by some volcano. The frost is the frozen vapour sent up from the earth. Hail is sent from some mountains at certain seasons and falls on some parts of the earth. It does not fall on a great area.

In the south of the country called Parnsha (Persia) on the western part of India, distant about 5,100 *ri* from Japan, there is a small island which is covered with the vapour of sulphur. There is no tree and the climate is very hot. Earthquakes occur very often there. The country called Kasugaru (Kashgar) is an island situated on the south of southern India. It is distant about 3,900 *ri* from Japan. This island is very rainy and clear weather occurs but seldom. The action of nature, as the rain, the wind, &c., is very difficult to understand. Hereafter I will describe several strange things which every one thinks exist, and stop all doubt about them.

guages as huracano, ouragan, hurricane) of the lightning and of thunder. So among Caribs, Brazilians, Harvey Islanders and Karens, Bechuanas and Basutos, we find legends of a ping or flashing thunder-bird, which seem simply to translate into myth the thought of thunder and lightning descending from the upper regions of the air, the home of the eagle and the vulture. *Primitive Culture*. Tylor. Vol. I., p. 362.

The Dacotas could show at a place called Thunder-Tracks, near the source of the St. Peter's River, the footprints of the thunder bird five and twenty miles apart. *Primitive Culture*. Trolly. Vol. II., p. 362.

## DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE OF LONGEVITY AT CANTON.

Canton, 18th. November.

I have to record a riot, in connection with a religious establishment, of more than ordinary importance, as it has resulted in the partial destruction of one of the finest monasteries in their city, namely that of Cheung Sou Tsz, or the Temple of Longevity, a building well known to foreigners. This Buddhist monastery and temple, situated in the Western Suburb, occupied some fifteen acres of ground, and was one of the finest edifices of the kind in Canton. At the back of the temple is a large pond or lake and an extensive garden in which the monks—about one hundred in number—raised vegetables and fruit for their own consumption. The inmates of the establishment, however, fairly well blessed with the good things of this life, had grown fat, lazy, and corrupt. Instead of being devout the monks were licentious, and it had for some time been a matter of notoriety among the natives that they were anything but suitable spiritual guides for their wives or daughters. The monks had in consequence been in bad odour, and several disputes have occurred between them and the people during the past four years; their goings on were not quite unknown to the authorities, for only recently a proclamation has been issued prohibiting women from going to worship at the monasteries. On Tuesday the long smouldering indignation of the populace was fanned into a flame. Early on the afternoon of that day several women were observed to enter the monastery temple to worship, and several hours elapsing without any sign of their reappearance, the watchers, whose numbers had augmented in the meantime, became suspicious, and began to make a noise, indulging in uncomplimentary remarks about the priests. Eventually they entered the temple and demanded from the priests there the production of the women, and angrily drew attention to the proclamation then posted on the Temple walls forbidding females to worship there. This request and a demand for admission to the inner part of the monastery were both flatly refused by the monks, who had assembled in force. High words then ensued, and from this the mob, all the time increasing in numbers and fury, began to stone the priests. The latter, who had armed themselves with knives and bamboos, attempted to drive back the crowd, and in the struggle wounded several persons. By this time the mob had become very large and very angry, breaking presently into unrestrained fury, pelting the monks, breaking everything they could lay hands on, and threatening to destroy the entire building. A body of soldiers arrived on the scene, but they were powerless to suppress the riot, which continued until three o'clock on Wednesday morning.

About six o'clock on Wednesday morning the mob resumed the riot, their numbers having doubled, and proceeded to pull down the premises, admittance having again been denied to them. The two side ranges of buildings were torn down, the rioters all the time maintaining a terrific hubbub, and uttering loud threats of vengeance against the priests. About three p.m., being impatient of slower methods of destruction, they set fire to the remaining buildings, and when the fire engines arrived they were not allowed by the mob to approach within reach of the flames, nor were the gongs permitted to be sounded. The conflagration raged

until about 7.30 p.m., by which time more than a third of the monastery was destroyed. All the valuable ornaments from the temple, the fittings, furniture, and even the vestments of the priests were carried out by the eager rioters and burned. During the search made by the rioters, in one of the apartments women's clothes, shoes, and ornaments were found, and the discovery elicited roars of indignation from the excited crowd. The priests, about twenty of whom were injured in the struggle with the people, took flight when the temple was broken open, and scattered in different directions. About a score of the rioters were wounded in the fray; and one was shot dead by the soldiers when attempting to quell the tumult.—*Corr. of the H. K. Daily Press*.

## TWO HONGKONG RESIDENTS TAKEN BY PIRATES.

(China Mail.)

Two gentlemen who went out shooting on Saturday (26th. ulto.) are missing. Mr. Schmidt and Mr. Rapp left here in a hakow boat at about three o'clock in the afternoon, intending to return last night (27th.) At noon yesterday (27th.) two of the boatmen returned and stated that their boat had been attacked by pirates at eight o'clock on Saturday night and taken, and that they had themselves escaped by jumping overboard and swimming ashore to the mainland. According to their account the pirates were in two small junks, which came up astern and made the attack one from each side, using firearms, and the man at the helm at the hakow boat fell wounded. The fire was not returned. Immediately on the matter being reported to the police, Captain Deane set off in a steam launch with a small party of his own men and a number of blue jackets and a naval officer from the *Victor Emanuel*. They returned about half-past nine last night, their search having been unsuccessful, the only information obtained being that some boats near the place of attack saw the boats after the seamen had jumped over-board sailing up the Canton River. It seems the men who brought the news were seen by another shooting party about ten o'clock yesterday morning running along the shore at Castle Peak, and on the information as to the occurrence being obtained from them, they were sent on here in the steam launch engaged by this party.

## RETURN OF MESSRS. RAPP AND SCHMIDT.

Great relief was felt in the town yesterday morning (Nov. 30th.) when it became known that Messrs. Rapp and Schmidt had come down from Canton by the steamer *Chinkiang* and the painful apprehensions which had been entertained as to their safety were removed. It seems the craft which attacked the boat they were in were cruisers in the service of the Haikwan, and were four in number, not two as first reported; they were in command of a petty officer, and one of them was armed with cannon. They opened fire without any previous warning, and were mistaken for pirates. Under this impression the boatpeople tried to escape by outailing the attacking party, but the skipper, who was at the helm, was killed by a shot, and the rigging of the boat being out



by the balls, they ran her ashore. The *Chinkiang* was passing up the river at the time and Messrs. Rapp and Schmidt tried to hail her, but could not succeed in making themselves heard, and as firing between customs people and smugglers is common enough on the river that in itself did not attract any particular attention. The two men who brought the news to Hongkong on Sunday jumped overboard when the boat grounded and the women and children also got ashore, but the two Europeans elected to keep by the boat. It was not until they were boarded that they discovered the official status of their assailants. After this was known the women and children returned on board. It would seem that the cruisers had been on the look-out for a boat suspected of smuggling and had mistaken this one for the one they were lying in wait for. On finding Europeans on board their manner indicated that they saw they had made a mistake, and the search they made did not result in the finding of any contraband goods on board. Messrs. Rapp and Schmidt wanted them to go to the Capsingmoon station to have the matter investigated there, but the cruisers declined to do this and took them up to Canton, where they arrived about seven o'clock on Monday morning. Some time elapsed before they were taken before the authorities, and in the meantime the officer in charge treated them as prisoners and allowed no communication with outside boats, but beyond the inconvenience this entailed they suffered no ill-treatment. They wanted to send a letter down by the *Ichang*, but could not get it conveyed on board, and their friends at this end were thus left in suspense for another night. About twelve o'clock they were taken to the Salt Commissioner's Yamen, where they saw several officials of standing, one of whom spoke English fluently. Here they were treated with every respect and courtesy and were told there was no complaint against them personally, but that their boat had attempted to smuggle eight bales of opium. This accusation against the boat people Messrs. Schmidt and Rapp immediately and emphatically denied, arguing that as they had engaged the boat only an hour or two before they left Hongkong, and as the people on board did not know beforehand the precise spot to which they were going, as they themselves had not quite made up their minds on this point before starting all the probabilities were against any supposition of smuggling; they were also required to report themselves at the customs station they passed, and there was, furthermore, the search made by the customs people, which showed conclusively that there was no opium on board. The mandarins still expressed themselves as doubtful, and remarked on the cunning of Chinamen and the imprudence of securing them. After some time spent at the Salt Commissioner's Yamen, Messrs. Schmidt and Rapp were taken across the river in a mandarin's boat, and conveyed in chairs to the Viceroy's yamen, where they were offered refreshment in the shape of champagne and sweets. After some conversation here of similar purport to that at the Salt Commissioner's Yamen they were conveyed in chairs to the German Consulate. Here they found that the *Chinkiang* was just on the point of leaving, and they had only time to give the consul a verbal statement of what had occurred; Mr. Travers commenced to take down their formal declaration, but there was not sufficient time to complete it. They informed him that the master of their boat had been killed,

that the boat was still detained, and that the widow of the dead man was in trouble as to what she should do. Mr. Travers promised to take such steps as were necessary for the assistance of the unfortunate woman, and Messrs. Rapp and Schmidt were thus relieved from further anxiety on her account. At the time the attack was made the German flag was flying on the boat, so that the cruisers would seem to have got themselves into a somewhat serious difficulty by their excess of zeal. Messrs. Rapp and Schmidt fired a few shots in the air when the affair commenced to let the attacking party know they were armed, but took no aim at individuals, waiting the development of events to see if they should take more serious action. Had they shown less prudence in this respect and wounded any of the cruiser's people, although this under the circumstances would have been no more than natural, the affair might have been more unpleasantly complicated than it is.

The steamer *Chinkiang* reports as follows:—"On Saturday evening, about 7 o'clock, when about abreast of Urmston Point, Castle Peak Bay, steamed close to a fleet of small boats and one large junk. All appeared to be firing at a small boat with a flag hoisted up aft. Took it to be an engagement between revenue cruisers and smugglers. While passing, one shot crossed our bridge, close to the pilot."—*Hongkong Daily Press*.

## SHANGHAI.

(N.-C. Daily News.)

The French mail steamer *Saghalien* has about 2,000 bales of silk engaged.

A contemporary states that "the Siamese Princess, before leaving Paris, bought 350 pianos for the harem of their august brother." This is really too bad; the King must fear the arrival of the pianos as much as the approach of an armed foe.

Mr. Hannen, who took his place for the first time on the Bench of the Supreme Court since his appointment to the Acting Chief Justiceship of China and Japan, prefaced the proceedings of the court by the following remarks:—"On this the first occasion of taking my seat in this court I cannot refrain from saying a few words in reference to the sad death of its late Chief Justice. He presided here with dignity, courtesy and kindness; and to those who, like myself, practised at the bar before him, his loss is a very real one, for he was ever considerate towards us, and patient and attentive to our arguments. Few know the labour which he bestowed upon his duties, and none can estimate how much of pain must have been added to the work by the state of his health. He has passed away and I feel sure that everyone who knew him must deeply regret his loss and bear him in affectionate remembrance.

(*Shanghai Courier*.)

A correspondent writes us from Melbourne stating that Miss Marie Carandini, the fair cantatrice, has, with her mother, retired to that city where they have their home, and that the former will shortly be married to a professional Melbourne singer to whom she has been for some time engaged.

## HONGKONG.

(*Hongkong Daily Press*.)

The American barque *Nicolas Thayer*, which arrived yesterday (Nov. 25th) from Newcastle, N.S.W., reports falling in with the Colonial barque *Prince Victor* waterlogged and dismasted on the 30th September. Took from on board her the steward, the rest of the crew having left the day previous in the long boat, the vessel at that time being about 140 miles off Part Macquarrie.

It is rumoured that Mr. Iwasaki intends reconstructing the Mitsui Bishi Company and that Mr. Krebs, the foreign director, will leave. The latter event is, however, most improbable, as it would be difficult to secure the services of so able, energetic and persevering a director, adviser, manager, &c., which Mr. Krebs is to the Company; besides this, he knows better of what that important institution is capable of doing than all the other directors and employees put together. So that, whatever changes are likely to take place, the Company in its own interest will most assuredly retain that gentleman in his present position.

The German gunboat *Wolf*, which has been down to Hainan to investigate the circumstances of the looting and firing of the German steamer *Quinta* when she went ashore on the island of Taichow, or Tinchosa, off the coast of Hainan, reports that the vessel is in a safe position partly on the rocks, and partly on the sand. Every moveable thing on board her has either been destroyed, or removed, and only the bare hull remains, but this, as far as could be ascertained, was not materially damaged, though this is by no means conclusively established, as there were no divers on the gunboat to examine it below the surface of the water. The captain of the *Wolf* communicated with the Taotai of the district, and found that the latter was taking some steps, though exceedingly slowly, with the object of punishing the natives who plundered the vessel, and there were then two men in custody, who were supposed to have been concerned in the matter. After the gunboat had reported the result of its mission to the German Consul here, she proceeded to Canton on Sunday morning (Nov. 25th.)

On the authority of a Ceylon paper we learn that Mr. J. V. Dunlop has concluded a lease, extending to 1890, with the P. & O. Company, for premises in Colombo, and there is every prospect of the chief agency in the island being established there by the end of March next.

We understand that Mr. Travers, German Consul at Canton, in addition to taking steps to procure indemnification for the two gentlemen of his own nationality for the recent illegal detention by lekin cruisers, has also taken action on behalf of the crew of the boat No. 1504, the owner of which unfortunately lost his life on the occasion referred to. The unfortunate man has been long engaged in providing the means of transport for such shooting excursions, and has been looked upon as one of the most respectable men of his class in the harbour. On the present unfortunate occasion he had representatives of no less than three generations on board, and the circumstances of the family are well deserving of consideration at the hands of the community independent of what may be secured for them from the Chinese authorities.—*China Mail*.

## Shipping.

## ARRIVALS.

Nov. 23, Russian corvette *Strelach*, Comd. de Livron, 1,850 tons, 10-guns, from Kobe.

Nov. 24, Jap. str. *Nagoya-Maru*, Walker, 1,914, from Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.

Nov. 24, Brit. str. *Hector*, Bellinge, 1,412, from London via Hongkong, General, to Butterfield & Swire.

Nov. 24, Brit. barq. *Ada Melmore*, Sewell, 569, from Middleborough, General, to Reimers & Co.

Nov. 24, Brit. str. *Sunda*, Reeves, 1,704, from Hongkong via Nagasaki, Mails and General, to P. & O. Co.

Nov. 26, Jap. str. *Tamaura-Maru*, Carrew, 558, from Hakodate, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.

Nov. 26, Am. schr. *Diana*, Peterson, 64, from Petropavlovski, Skins, to Captain.

Nov. 26, Am. schr. *Pioneer*, Wilson, 54, from Kurile Islands, Skins, to W. Copeland.

Nov. 26, H. M. ship *Zephyr*, Lieut.-Comd. Pollard, 380 tons, 534 H.P., 4-guns, 69 men, from Simonseski.

Nov. 26, Brit. str. *Glaucus*, Jackson, 1,648, from London via Hongkong, General, to Butterfield & Swire.

Nov. 26, Ger. schr. *M. C. Bohm*, Baade, 51, from Kurile Islands, Skins, to P. Bohm.

Nov. 26, Am. schr. *Ohude*, Wilson, 72, from Kurile Islands, Otter and Seal Skins, to Captain.

Nov. 28, Am. schr. *Arastasia*, Cashman, Tibbey, 65, from Okotak sea, Furs and Ivory to Capt.

Nov. 28, Dan. str. *Volmer*, Heintzelmann, 978, from Antwerp, via Hongkong, General, to Walsh, Hall & Co.

Nov. 28, Jap. str. *Takachiho-Maru*, Nye, 1,406, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.

Nov. 28, Jap. str. *Kokonoye-Maru*, Dithlefsen, 1,133, from Hakodate, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.

Nov. 29, Brit. str. *Lord of the Isles*, Felgate, 1,371, from London via Hongkong, General, to Smith, Baker & Co.

Nov. 29, Brit. str. *Belgie*, Davison, 2,627, from San Francisco, Mails and General, to P. M. Co.

Nov. 30, Frch. str. *Menzaleh*, Homery, 1,278, from Hongkong, Mails and General, to M. M. Co.

Nov. 30, Brit. str. *Strathmore*, Rowell, 1,383, from Kobe, Ballast, to Smith, Baker & Co.

Dec. 1, Jap. str. *Genkai-Maru*, Conner, 1,917, from Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.

Dec. 1, Jap. barq. *Sumanoura-Maru*, Spiegelthal, 925, from Nagasaki, Coals, to M. B. Co.

Dec. 1, Jap. str. *Wakanoura-Maru*, Christensen, 1,300, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.

Dec. 3, Italian Frigate *Garibaldi*, 2,000 tons, 8-guns, from San Francisco.

Dec. 5, Jap. barq. *Awajishima-Maru*, Creighton 661, from Nagasaki, Coals, to M. B. Co.

Dec. 5, Frch. barq. *Alice*, Scenla, 305, from Antwerp, General, to A. Reimers & Co.

Dec. 5, Jap. str. *Takasago-Maru*, Young, 1,230, from Hongkong via Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.

Dec. 6, Am. bark *Haze*, Evans, 796, from Newcastle, N.S.W., Oct. 8th, Coals, to Walsh, Hall & Co.

Dec. 6, Ger. schr. *Helene*, Breckwoldt, 430, from Hamburg, June 28th, General, to A. Reimers & Co.

Dec. 6, Am. ship *Wandering Jew*, Talpey, 1,737, from Cardiff, July 12th, Coals, to P. Bohm.

Dec. 7, Jap. str. *Takachiho-Maru*, Nye, 1,406, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.

Dec. 8, Jap. str. *Hiroshima-Maru*, Haswell, 1,870, from Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.

Dec. 8, Brit. str. *Radnorshire*, Davies, 1,385, from London via Hongkong, General, to Adamson, Bell & Co.

Dec. 8, Am. str. *City of Tokio*, Maury, 5,050, from Hongkong, Mails and General, to P. M. Co.

Dec. 8, Am. ship *Cora*, Thombs, 1,492, from New York, June 15th, Kerosene and General, to C. & J. Trading Co.

## DEPARTURES.

Nov. 23, Jap. str. *Tokio-Maru*, Swain, 2,119, for Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. Co.

Nov. 24, Jap. str. *Kuorio-Maru*, Hogg, —, for Yokaiichi, General, despatched by M. B. Co.

Nov. 24, Jap. str. *Wakanoura-Maru*, Christensen, 1,300, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. Co.

Nov. 24, Brit. str. *Strathmore*, Rowell, 1,383, for Kobe, General, despatched by Smith, Baker & Co.

Nov. 25, Brit. str. *Oceanic*, Metcalfe, 3,710, for San Francisco, Mails and General, despatched by O. & O. Co.

Nov. 26, Frch. str. *Tanais*, Reynier, 1,785, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by M. M. Co.

Nov. 26, Jap. str. *Niigata-Maru*, Wynn, 1,603, for Hongkong via Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. Co.

Nov. 26, Jap. str. *Sumida-Maru*, Hubenet, 896, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. Co.

Nov. 28, Jap. barq. *Kanagawa-Maru*, Eckstrand, 1,184, for Nagasaki, Ballast, despatched by M. B. Co.

Nov. 29, Brit. str. *Hector*, Bellinge, 1,412, for London via Japan and China ports, General, despatched by Butterfield & Swire.

Nov. 29, Jap. str. *Takachiho-Maru*, Nye, 1,406, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. Co.

Nov. 30, Jap. str. *Nagoya-Maru*, Walker, 1,914, for Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. Co.

Dec. 1, Brit. str. *Belgie*, Davison, 2,627, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by O. & O. Co.

Dec. 1, Brit. str. *Sunda*, Reeves, 1,704, for Hongkong via Hiogo and Nagasaki, Mails and General, despatched by P. & O. Co.

Dec. 3, Jap. str. *Tamaura-Maru*, Carrew, 558, for the North, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. Co.

Dec. 2, H. B. M. steam-corvette *Encounter*, Capt. Robinson, 1,934 tons, 14-guns, 2124 H.P., 226 men, for Kobe.

Dec. 3, H.B.M. sloop *Pegasus*, Comd. Day, 1,137 tons, 6-guns, 940 H.P., 120 men, for Hongkong.

Dec. 3, Brit. str. *Glaucus*, Jackson, 1,648, for London, via Kobe, Nagasaki and Hongkong, General, despatched by Butterfield & Swire.

Dec. 5, Jap. str. *Kokonoye-Maru*, Dithlefsen, 1,133, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. Co.

Dec. 6, Jap. str. *Wakanoura-Maru*, Christensen, 1,300, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. Co.

Dec. 6, Brit. str. *Strathmore*, Rowell, 1,383, for New York, General, despatched by Smith, Baker & Co.

Dec. 6, Dan. str. *Volmer*, Heintzelmann, 978, for Kobe, General, despatched by Walsh, Hall & Co.

Dec. 7, Jap. str. *Genkai-Maru*, Conner, 1,917, for Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. Co.

## PASSENGERS.

Per Jap. str. *Tokio-Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Smith, Rev. J. B. Forar, Rev. G. Knox, wife and child, Messrs. Delacamp, Mypauny, Abata, Barry and 12 Japanese in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Nagoya-Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Lieut. L. B. Friend, Messrs. Von der Hayde, Jacob, Hill, Bazing, Colombo, Cuthbertson and 16 Japanese in cabin; 200 Japanese and 1 European in steerage. For San Francisco: Mr. A. W. Danforth in cabin.

Per Brit. str. *Sunda* from Hongkong via Nagasaki:—Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Reid, Miss MacKenzie, Dr. and Mrs. W. A. Thomson, Mr. C. T. Smith, Mr. J. McLean; and 2 Chinese on deck.

Per Brit. str. *Oceanic*, for San Francisco:—Chinese Minister for Washington, &c., and staff, Paymaster O. C. Tiffany, u.s.n., Dr. A. M. Owen, Messrs. James Bishop, Jr., M. Satow, C. R. Lewis, Geo. Thyen, (bus, Lochue, Ngn, Isu Lik Cha and A. W. Danforth in cabin; 20 Europeans and 841 Chinese in steerage. For London: Messrs. Gustave Harlieman and A. E. Philipps in cabin. For Paris: Messrs. Carlo Giussani, A. Andreassi, A. Meloncelli, and E. Ottolini, in cabin. For Hamburg: Mr. B. Flutow in cabin. For Liverpool: Mr. L. B. Friend in cabin.

Per Frch. str. *Tanais*, for Hongkong:—Comte de Seebach, Messrs. B. Imberti, M. Lieter, G. Viganò, Velini, A. Noretta, C. Gerosa, B. Gualini, L. Insellvin, Miller, K. Tajima, H. Holoshi and Asaichi in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Tamaura-Maru*, from Hakodate:—6 Japanese.

Per Jap. str. *Niigata-Maru*, for Hongkong via Kobe:—Mr. M. Dohmen, Major-General McIntyre, Messrs. Geo. Baillie, Geo. Irwin, C. B. Bernard, H. Ahrens and 5 Japanese in cabin.

Per Brit. str. *Glaucus*, from Hongkong:—Mr. Singleton.

Per Jap. str. *Takachiho-Maru* from Kobe:—Messrs. Taylor and Connor in cabin; and 130 Japanese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Kokonoye-Maru* from Hakodate:—200 Japanese and 1 European in steerage.

Per Brit. str. *Belgie*, from San Francisco:—Comd. P. H. Cooper, u.s.n., Rev. D. C. Green and family, Mrs. Loomis and family, Rev. W. H. F. Garratt, Rev. Anotobe, Messrs. Mitsuo Kubara, D. Marcus, A. Zwet, and E. B. Kittle in cabin. For Hongkong: Rev. G. L. Mackay and family in cabin; and 533 Chinese in steerage.

Per Brit. str. *Lord of the Isles* from London via Hongkong:—Messrs. Swatman and Gillet in cabin.

Per Frch. str. *Menzaleh*, from Hongkong:—Mr. Ezuzi in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Nagoya-Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Messrs. J. H. Bullock, W. H. Smith and servant, R. D. Walker and servant, J. D. Walker and servant, and 4 Japanese in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Genkai-Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Messrs. J. J. Quin, B. Carr, E. H. Tuskar, Boudon, and 26 Japanese in cabin; 2 Europeans, 3 Chinese and 256 Japanese in steerage. For San Francisco: Rev. J. R. Goddard, Mrs. J. R. Goddard, and 4 children in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Wakanoura-Maru*, from Kobe:—Capt. Mahlmann and 3 Japanese.

Per Brit. str. *Sunda*, for Hongkong via Hiogo and Nagasaki:—Dr. Simmons, Dr. Lyons, Dr. Schenel, Revd. B. Davidson, Mrs. Davidson, Lt. John Browne, Messrs. Boyson, and Veitch in cabin; and 4 Chinese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Takasago-Maru*, from Hongkong via Kobe:—Messrs. Martin Dohmen, H. Ahrens, J. H. Longford, C. B. Barnard, and 2 Japanese in cabin. 119 Japanese and 1 Chinese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Takachiho-Maru*, from Kobe:—80 Japanese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Genkai-Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Revd. D. C. Greene and family, Messrs. R. A. Robertson, C. Stebel, J. B. Morse, W. A. Woolley, M. Ginsburg, Mr. and Mrs. Casagua, and 6 Japanese in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Hiroshima-Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Prince Fushimi no Miya, Mrs. W. H. Sibby, Mrs. Ballagh, Mr. North and child, Messrs. M. Kirkwood, G. W. Thomason, E. H. Gill, Roehr, and 4 Japanese in cabin; and 6 Chinese and 2214 Japanese in steerage. For San Francisco: Mr. Randall Pye in cabin.

Per Am. str. *City of Tokio*, from Hongkong for San Francisco:—Messrs. J. F. Burrous, O. B. Farrell, H. Batjee, Oliver Rice, Rev. A. W. Nesbit and Captain Reynolds in cabin; and 1049 Chinese in steerage. For Yokohama: One Chinaman in steerage.

Per Am. ship *Cora*, from New York:—J. C. Cabot, Esq.

## REPORTS.

The British steamer *Sunda* reports:—Left Hongkong Nov. 16th at 0.30 p.m. From thence to Tarn about fresh monsoon and fine, then variable winds ending in a strong N.W. gale to Nagasaki. Left Nagasaki at 8 a.m. 21st to Yokohama fine weather and light winds. Arrived here at 1 p.m. 24th inst.

The Japanese steamer *Tamaura-Maru* reports:—Left Hakodate at 6 p.m. 23rd inst. Experienced fresh N.E. winds with fine weather throughout. Arrived at 2 a.m. 26th. Brought down Capt. Walker and crew of wrecked M. B. str. *Chishima-Maru*.

The American schooner *Diana*, reports:—Off Cape King encountered a strong gale from S.E. with tremendous sea, lost two boats and did other damage; passed the *Pioneer* beating up.

H. M. ship *Zephyr* reports:—Strong N.W. gale on 20th and 21st; remainder light winds from Northward.

The British steamer *Glaucus* reports:—Left London Sept. 26th. Left Hongkong Nov. 19th. Arrived at Yokohama 26th inst. Experienced strong N.E. monsoon up China coast; thence to Van Dieman's Straits fresh Northerly winds and rain; from there to port strong Westerly gale with heavy squalls and fine weather intervening.

The British steamer *Belgie* reports:—Left San Francisco Nov. 8th at 2.51 p.m. Encountered fine weather with variable winds throughout the voyage. Arrived at Yokohama Nov. 29th at 7.26 p.m. Time 20 days, 11 hours and 7 min.

The British steamer *Lord of the Isles* reports:—From London arrived at Hongkong Nov. 18th, and left on 22nd. Experienced strong N.E. gales throughout and very high sea. Arrived at Yokohama 29th inst.

The American steamer *City of Tokio* reports:—Left Hongkong Dec. 2nd at 3.10 p.m. Had strong N.E. gales and high sea to Dec. 6th; and thence to Yokohama moderate N.E. and fine weather. Arrived Dec. 8th at 8 p.m. Time 5 days, 20 hours and 15 minutes.

YOKOHAMA, 7TH DECEMBER, 1881.

## IMPORTS.

**100 Dollars Mexican = 811 Silver Boas.**

	DUTY CALCULATED IN MEXICAN DOLLARS.	DUTY PAID.		ESTIMATED SALES.  (From 23rd November to 6th December.)
		PRICES AT WHICH SALES HAVE BEEN MADE.	NOMINAL QUOTATIONS.	
<b>COTTON PIECE GOODS.</b>				
Drills, American, 40 yds. 80 in. 14 lbs. ...	0.0241 ₱ 10 yds.	\$ ——— ₱ pc.	\$2.55 @ 3.50	— pieces.
Prints, assorted, 24 " 30 " ...	0.0241 " "	— " "	1.00 @ 3.00	— "
Satins (cotton) ...	0.0643 " "	— ₱ yd.	0.11½ @ 0.12	— "
Shirtings, Grey, 38½ yds. 39 in. 7 lbs. ...	0.0281 " "	— ₱ pc.	1.40 @ 1.90	— "
" " 38½ " 39 " 8½ " ...	0.0281 " "	— " "	1.75 @ 2.35	— "
" " 38½ " 45 " 9 " ...	0.0321 " "	2.25 @ 2.60	2.20 @ 2.75	5,000 "
" " 39 " 39 " 9½ " ...	0.0321 " "	— " "	— " "	— "
T. Cloth, 32 in. 6 lbs. ...	0.0241 " "	— " "	1.20 @ 1.60	— "
" " 7 " ...	— " "	1.55 — " "	1.55 @ 1.75	200 "
Turkey Reds, 24 yds. 30 in. 1½ lb. ...	— " "	— " "	— " "	— "
" " 24 " 30 " 2 " @ 2½ lb. ...	— " "	— " "	— " "	— "
" " 24 " 30 " 2 " 10 oz. ...	0.0241 " "	— " "	— " "	— "
" " 24 " 30 " — @ 3 lbs. ...	— " "	— " "	1.60 @ 2.20	— "
Velvets (black) 35 " 22 " ...	0.0643 " "	6.75 @ 7.30	— " "	910 "
Victoria Lawns, 12 " 42 " ...	0.0321 " "	— " "	0.60 @ 0.80	— "
Cotton Italians, 35 " 32 " ...	0.0643 " "	— ₱ yd.	0.10 @ 0.15	— "
<b>COTTON YARN.</b>				
Nos. 16 reversed ...	—	81.40 — ₱ pc.	—	25 bales.
" 20 " ...	—	33.75 — " "	—	50 "
" 16 @ 24 " ...	—	28.30 @ 33.50 " "	—	1,991 "
" 28 @ 32 " ...	—	33.12 @ 34.50 " "	—	425 "
" 38 @ 42 " ...	—	36.25 @ 38.00 " "	—	65 "
" 32 doubled " ...	1.6077 ₱ picul.	— " "	—	— "
" 42 " ...	—	89.75 — " "	—	50 "
" 100 " ...	—	100.00 — " "	—	3 "
Indian No. 10 " ...	—	— " "	—	— "
" " 14 " ...	—	— " "	—	— "
" " 16 " ...	—	28.00 @ 28.50 " "	—	80 "
" " 20 doubled " ...	—	32.50 — " "	—	58 "
<b>WOOLLENS AND MIXTURES.</b>				
Alpaca, 40 yds. 32 in. ...	0.0965 ₱ 10 yds.	— ₱ pc.	\$5.50 @ \$7.00	—
Blankets, assorted, 6 lbs. (½ green ½ scarlet) ...	1.6077 ₱ picul.	— ₱ lb.	—	—
" " 5 lbs. ...	—	0.36½ — " "	—	300 pairs
" " 5½ lbs. (all green) ...	—	— ₱ yd.	0.80 @ 1.50	—
Cloth, all wool, 54 @ 64 lbs. ...	0.0965 ₱ 10 yds.	— " "	0.30 @ 0.60	—
" Pilots, 54 @ 64 " ...	—	— " "	0.60 @ 0.70	—
" Presidents, 54 @ 64 " ...	—	— " "	0.35 @ 0.60	—
" Union, 54 @ 56 " ...	—	— " "	0.25 @ 0.40	—
Italian Cloth, 32 in. ...	—	— " "	0.16½ @ 0.19½	2,050 pieces
Mousselines de Laine (plain & stripes), 24 yds. 31 in. ...	0.0965 ₱ 10 yds.	0.15 @ 0.16	—	—
" " " (figured) ...	0.0965 " "	— " "	0.25 @ 0.40	—
<b>SUGAR.</b>				
White, Jimpah, No. 1 ...	—	\$7.90 @ 8.30	—	—
" Khimpah, " 2 ...	—	7.20 @ 7.70	—	—
" Kokfah, " 3 ...	0.3215 ₱ picul.	6.70 @ 7.10	—	12,000 piculs stock.
" Kungfun, " 4 ...	—	5.80 @ 6.50	—	—
" Gnimpah, " 5 ...	—	5.00 @ 5.20	—	—
Brown, Formosa, bags ...	new	4.50 @ 4.60	—	20,000 piculs old stock.
" Amoy ...	old	4.30 @ 4.35	—	10,000 " new "
<b>METALS &amp;c.</b>				
Iron, Flat and Round ...	0.0965 ₱ picul.	— ₱ pcl.	\$2.50 @ \$2.85	—
" Assorted Nail-rods, (assorted) ...	0.0965 " "	— " "	2.90 @ 3.17½	—
" Pig ...	0.0482 " "	— " "	1.40 @ 1.60	—
Lead, Pig ...	0.2572 " "	— " "	5.80 @ 6.00	—
Quicksilver ...	1.9292 " "	— " "	— " "	—
Steel, Swedish ...	0.1930 " "	— " "	3.80 @ 4.55	—
Tin Plates ...	0.2251 ₱ 120 lbs.	— ₱ box	4.80 @ 4.90	—
Kerosene Oil ...	5 % ad valorem.	— ₱ case	2.15 —	—
Raw Cotton ...	0.4019 ₱ picul.	— ₱ pcl.	10.00 @ 15.00	Nominal Stock 207,610 cases.

## STAPLE EXPORTS.

**SILK.**—Our last report was dated 24th ultimo. The position of our silk market during the last two weeks may be briefly summed up:—Depressing advices from the consuming markets, and no disposition on the part of sellers to meet buyers and transact a business. As far as daily returns will show settlements by foreigners do not exceed 850 bales; Japanese still continue to ship freely on their own account.

It is to be noted that some 2,200 native bales have been sent into foreign godowns under loan; fluctuations in the value of native paper currency have also hindered business.

Arrivals have been on a free scale and stock, all kinds comprised, is estimated at 10,000 shipping bales.

At the quotations given it cannot be said that holders are free sellers.

General satisfaction has not been given by sellers under the new regulations as to bulk being equal in quality to musters sold from; in some cases faith has been kept, but in others not, and a fair average quantity of silk has been rejected on inspection.

TOTAL EXPORT FROM 1ST JULY TO DATE.										1880-81.	1881-82
London	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,137 Bales.	1,708 Bales.
France and Italy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,020 "	3,354 "
United States	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,853 "	2,347 "
										8,010 Bales.	7,409 Bales.

**TEA.**—A fair demand for low grade teas continuing prices shew a further advance on last quotations, and a rise of about \$1 per picul has been established on all grades from Good Medium downwards. Settlements during the interval amount to 5,400 piculs, and supplies having been on a limited scale stocks in first hands are somewhat reduced. The *S. S. Lord of the Isles* and *Radnorshire* are advertised for New York with quick despatch via China ports and Suez; rate of freight £3 per 40 cubic feet.

DESCRIPTION.	PRICES PER PICUL.	REMARKS.
SILK:—		
Mayebashi and Sinashiu, 1½ @ 2 Hanks ... ..	\$640 to \$650 per picul.	Many lots held for higher prices.
"      "      2      "      ... ..	620 to 635 "	
"      "      2½      "      ... ..	600 to 615 "	
"      "      3 and lower ... ..	580 to 590 "	
Kakedas; Good ... ..	665 to 680 "	
Filatures; Best ... ..	725 to 750 "	
"      Good ... ..	690 to 720 "	
Hamatski; Medium to Good ... ..	510 to 530 "	
Sendai and Oshiu ... ..	— to — "	
TEA:—		
Common... ..	\$10.00 and under.	Prices show an advance of \$1 on last quotations.
Good Common ... ..	\$11.00 to \$14.00	
Medium ... ..	\$16.00 to \$19.00	
Good Medium ... ..	\$22.00 to \$24.00	
Fine ... ..	\$25.00 to \$29.00	
Finest ... ..	\$31.00 to \$35.00	
Choice ... ..	\$36.00 and upwards.	

## EXCHANGE.

Japanese holders continuing to ask prices some twelve per cent. higher than quotations at home for their silk, purchases have been on a very limited scale. Stocks amounting to some 9,000 to 10,000 shipping bales, it is expected that holders will reduce their prices considerably.

Transactions in exchange have, in consequence, been very trifling. Silver has advanced slightly and closes at 52.

ON LONDON.—Bank	.....4 months' sight.....	3s. 9½d.
" " do.	.....Sight.....	3s. 8½d.
" " Credits	.....6 months' sight.....	3s. 9½d.
" " do.	.....4 do. ....	3s. 9½d.
" PARIS.—Bank.	.....Sight.....	4.71
" " Credits	.....6 months' sight.....	4.86
" SHANGHAI.—Bank	.....Sight.....	73½
" " Private	.....10 days' sight.....	74

ON HONGKONG.—Bank	.....Sight.....	Par.
" " Private	.....10 days' sight.....	½ % discount
" SAN FRANCISCO.—Bank	.....Sight.....	90
" " Private	.....80 days' sight.....	91
" NEW YORK.—Bank	.....Sight.....	90
" " Private	.....80 days' sight.....	91

Paper currency, 167½ per \$100.



# THE JAPAN GAZETTE,

A FORTNIGHTLY SUMMARY OF THE

POLITICAL, COMMERCIAL, LITERARY, AND SOCIAL EVENTS OF JAPAN.

VOL. XXVIII. No. 12.

YOKOHAMA, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1881.

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## BIRTH.

At No. 73 Bluff, Yokohama, on the 14th. inst. the wife of W. VAWDREY of a son.

## DIED.

On board the S. S. *Waverley*, at sea, whilst on the passage from Vladivostok to Hakodate, on the 12th inst. MATHEW CATLIN ADAMS, of Nagasaki, Japan, aged 55 years.

## Summary.

OUR last issue was dated December 9th. for transmission by the M. M. S. S. *Volga*. The following mails have since been received:—

F.M.S. *City of Rio de Janeiro*, San Fcisco... Nov. 22 arr. Dec. 13  
M.M.S. *Tanais*, Marseilles .....

M.M.S. *Niigata Maru*, London .....

And the following have been despatched:—

M.M.S. *Volga*, Marseilles .....

F.M.S. *City of Tokio*, San Francisco .....

F. & O. S. *Malacca*, London .....

M.M.S. *Menzies*, Marseilles .....

Soon after these lines are in type the great Christian festival will have once more dawned upon the world and at least the British portion of the foreign community will be intent on keeping their wonted holiday. Regarded in whatever light it may be, Christmas is at least a truly English festival. In whatever part of the world Englishmen may

find themselves, whether it be within the ice-bound shores of northern regions, amidst the lofty hills, sultry plains, and dense jungles of India, or in some flourishing city of what Sir Charles Dilke not inaptly calls our "Greater Britain beyond the seas," or even in this *Ultima Thule* of civilization they do their best to preserve the time-honoured associations of the season. Various schemes are afloat for promoting the enjoyment of one and all, including the "rising generation" for whose delectation concerts and Christmas trees are being prepared. The departure of the O. & O. S. *Belgie* has been expedited to 10 a.m. on the 25th. inst.; this will enable places of business to be closed on Boxing Day which, had the original date, 27th. inst., been adhered to would have been impossible. For this boon the community are indebted to the agent of the company who has kindly effected the alteration. He has earned their best thanks and his health and prosperity will probably be the subject of many a toast during the festive season of "peace and good-will."

THE advent of Christmas reminds us that the year 1881 is fast drawing to its close; a few days more and it will have merged into the vast and illimitable past. What prospects the new year has in store for us can scarcely be predicted. Look which way we will, in all parts of the world things seem to be in a state of transition. Nor is Japan an exception: the silk war is over but the balance of trade has scarcely righted itself, and the approaching revision of treaties is being warily discussed; that is, as far as such an apathetic community as that of Yokohama is capable of being interested or enthusiastic in anything above the level of a cricket match or a theatrical performance. In matters of amusement they can be active enough; but when a question of vital importance arises concerning their very safety and welfare, then—why then, "they will see about it."

THE question of a legislative assembly still continues to be discussed by the native press but there appears to be no prospect of its establishment being hastened. On the 8th. inst. his Imperial Majesty the Mikado held a *levee* of governors of *fu* and *ken* at the imperial palace when he explained their duties and clearly laid down the power and authority they would continue to exercise until such time as the parliament shall be established. Some of the *sangi* are ambitions of becoming members of an hereditary upper house on the same plan as our own House of Lords and are commencing to agitate its adoption. Such an institution in Japan is not desirable even if it be possible. It would savour too strongly of the feudalism from which the country has only recently escaped.

WE have not yet heard the last of the Kaitakushi. General Karoda has recently addressed a memorial to the government in which he recommends that it be left in its present condition for the next three years at an annual expenditure of 600,000 *yen*. He says that its immediate abolition will frustrate many important speculations in which several million *yen* have been invested and therefore urges its continuance. The question is still engaging the attention of the cabinet.

THAT the community of Yokohama is not deficient in theatrical talent was amply proved by the very successful entertainment which was given at the Gaiety Theatre on the evening of the 13th. inst. The piece selected was W. S. Gilbert's *Palace of Truth* which is probably the worst and most pointless of all that author's numerous productions. Nevertheless the amateurs played their parts with so much spirit that they made this so-called "fairy" comedy "go down" with the numerous and critical audience with which the building was closely packed. A full report will be found in another column.

A SUGAR monopoly is threatened. One of the native papers states that native planters are sorely exercised concerning the increased importation of foreign sugar which has occasioned serious loss to them. A company is said to have been formed for "improving the manufacture of sugar, extending the business, and thereby checking further importation of the article." It is also stated that an application has been made to the government for "special protection in furtherance of these objects" and that they have notified their approval of the undertaking.

ABSURD rumours are constantly being circulated relative to the United States diplomatic and consular service in Japan. The latest of these is that the Hon. John A. Bingham and Gen. T. B. Van Buren are about to be replaced respectively by Messrs. John Russell Young and E. H. House. The report, to say the least is highly improbable. The former gentleman's only claim to office seems to be that he has taken a tour round the world with Gen. Grant and has written a book to bolster up the object of his admiration. We doubt very much whether such recommendation would carry any weight with President Arthur. As for the latter gentleman the less said the better. A glance at the files of the defunct *Tokio Times* will be sufficient to stamp him as utterly unfit for the post of consul-general at Kanagawa. It is not improbable, however, that General Van Buren may sooner or later succeed Mr. Bingham; this would be promotion where it is due, and a better appointment, or one more satisfactory to the entire foreign community could not possibly be made.

## Leading Articles.

### APPROACHING REVISION OF THE TREATIES.

#### II.

ON the 15th. November we reprinted from the *London and China Express* a report framed by a committee of London merchants on the propositions put forward by the Japanese government for a revision of the treaty and tariff with Great Britain. In an earlier issue, Nov. 7th., we reprinted the report of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce on the same subject, and had the comments of the Leeds or Bradford merchants reached us the expression of mercantile opinion in England would be complete. Happily, however, we can dispense with the last named and, while criticising the work of others, offer some reflections of foreign opinion in Yokohama that may be found worthy of even more than passing consideration.

Our London correspondent, in spirited language and with visible enthusiasm, censures the tone of the report of the London committee; and we fully endorse his views. The document is not creditable either to the committee who drew it up or to the spirit in which Japan's propositions are supposed to have been received. The ground which this committee assumes England should take up in her negotiations with Japan is untenable: in reason and fairness we are bound to receive with the utmost respect and consideration every proposal Japan may make. We ought to assume that the government know best the requirements of their own country; if their propositions are unreasonable, injurious in their tendency, or retrogressive in effect, it is for us, with our world-wide knowledge and varied experience, to endeavour to dissuade the nation from a course which cannot ultimately be beneficial whatever its immediate effect may be. We have no right, and, to do justice to a large number of thinking men, no inclination to force upon Japan the necessity of sacrificing every national feeling, every patriotic inspiration, to the exigencies of a trade the true meaning and benefits of which are as yet but imperfectly understood, and that only by the few. We came here uninvited; we forced upon an unwilling nation commercial treaties every breach of which was, until a few years ago, deemed to justify stern remonstrance. Unlike the conservative Chinese the Japanese suddenly threw off the restraints of centuries. The powers that held the land in subjection gave place to a reformed government, and a new force arose in the person of the people. Fifteen years ago there were no powers in Japan but the sovereign and the nobles: now the people form a power greater than both. Internal dissensions were the natural consequences of this complete subversion of the rule of ages; and the country has passed through an epoch in its history with infinite credit to its government. Perhaps a revolution so complete could never have taken place had it not been for the awakening of the desire for knowledge caused by the advent of those few American vessels seven and twenty years ago, the treaties which followed, and the commerce which was the consequence. Educated Japanese are not slow to acknowledge the benefits which have accrued to their country from conventions which have placed Japan in the rank of nations, and made for her, if

she chooses to cultivate the acquaintance, many friends among those enlightened powers of the west who love not injustice, and who have fought too long and arduously for their own liberties to deny equal privileges to others. Courtesy alone demands that every matter connected with her own future in which Japan takes the initiative should be received with the fullest consideration; and where argument and reason fail to convince her rulers of the error they propose to commit we must be content to trust to the lessons of experience, even though, in the meantime, that commerce we remain here to improve and transact should be impeded, or temporarily suspended. We know that the days when fleets and armies were used to induce trade among the people of a nation who would not trade—who preferred their selfish isolation to commerce which is a vital necessity of human existence—are happily past and gone. We have now to deal with a people not deficient in education, enterprise, and intelligence; and a government more embarrassed by their own misfortunes than averse to extended relations with other powers: to these we can hold no language of menace or insult; yet this language has been with much truth imputed to the report of the London committee, with which, however, foreigners in Japan have little if any sympathy. As our correspondent justly remarks, that report is not a "manifesto or embodiment of conclusions of the government. It deals only with the hard relations of commerce which naturally extrude all matters extraneous to them," and it has been written by men none of whom have any great claim to personal knowledge of Japan as it now is: and, finally, it is deprecated as earnestly and thoroughly by sensible foreigners here as it can possibly be by the most sensitive Japanese.

This explicit disclaimer of the obnoxious document is necessary before we can venture to state the views of those foreigners whose experience has been gained by years of direct intercourse with Japan conducted on the best principles of probity. Many of the complaints made against Japan are not entirely without foundation. There is an obvious distrust of foreigners, and a seeming desire to prevent the extension of commerce, especially painful to those who are forced to contrast the utterances of the people in friendly conversation with their views expressed anonymously in the native newspapers. There is an unconcealed yet mistaken jealousy of foreign interference with the right of tariff control, and the exemption of strangers from the *lex terræ*, on the part of the ruling powers much to be deplored; while on the part of the people there is undisguised envy of the appearance of prosperity which distinguishes the few poor foreign settlements from native towns; prosperity which, though merely factitious, is attributed to the exclusive appropriation of commercial rights denied to Japanese merchants. Other grievances are patent. The firm establishment of monopolies and combinations; the support directly and indirectly accorded by the government to some of them, and the countenance and tacit approval extended to others, tend as effectually to defeat the object of treaties of commerce which confer trade rights on the whole of the people, as though a law should pass declaring all trade contraband which is not conducted through certain official nominees. Foreigners, impressed with a belief that commerce might be vastly extended to general advantage if these obstacles were removed, chafe under the hardship and, as is their wont, complain

bitterly of the perfidy which permits the government to remain passive while a vital stipulation of a solemn treaty is set at defiance by a mere handful of men whose action is palpably injurious to the people. Foreigners are here on the distinct understanding that they shall have full liberty to deal with all classes of Japanese: that condition is openly violated by cliques of monopolists who presume to license the persons empowered to deal with foreigners, and to restrict the number until it can be counted on the fingers of both hands. This shameful abuse is openly represented in the person of the *Machigaisho* which issues licenses to traders to deal in Yokohama: levies taxes on all commodities entering or leaving the foreign settlement: pays an annual sum to the local government for those privileges: employs the police, a branch of the imperial service, to enforce its unlawful decrees; and has erected watch houses at all the bridges where spies are stationed to prevent the evasion of its regulations. Respectful appeals to the government through the medium of foreign representatives elicit but one answer:—"We know nothing at all about it:" and that answer, for obvious reasons, is considered to add insult to injury. The government may be wholly unconnected with these associations; they say they are, and we are in duty bound to believe them, but is the absence of personal interest any reason why they should permit one or two close corporations to commit open violations of treaty rights intended, not for foreigners' exclusive advantage but for the general benefit of commerce which cannot confer wealth upon the foreigner without conferring it doubly upon the native of this country. We search the new propositions in vain to discover any remedy for this distressing situation; and look through every clause in the fast wearing hope that all the many promises and protestations of friendship to foreigners and desires for an extended trade may be found embodied in some obscurely worded section. The humiliating situation in which foreigners are placed is to be made even less endurable; and in the whole of these proposals not a single concession is to be made in favour of those who, during their twenty years residence in the open ports, have never given the government any cause to regret their presence.

These grievances have of late attracted much attention; and the refusal of the government to give ear to the complaints directly and indirectly made has been unfavourably construed as equivalent in effect to a denial of justice, or an identification of the interests of the government with those of the monopolists. This knowledge, combined with the avowed desire to materially increase the tariff on imports, leads to the not unnatural belief that the monopolists on the one hand, by excluding the people from free intercourse with the settlements, and the government on the other, by the large and in some cases prohibitive increase of duties on articles of real necessity, are joined in the common object of destroying a commerce already weakened and undermined by unchecked abuses; and to some extent extenuates, if it does not justify, the following passages in the London report:—

We cannot but remark on the feeling of distrust towards foreigners which seems to be the animating spirit of the Japanese negotiators. There is no recognition whatever of the benefits which the opening of foreign trade has conferred on the country in extending employment and enhancing the value of native productions. Foreign trade, in their idea, does not constitute an interest to be

cultivated and expanded, as calculated still more to increase the revenue and promote the interests of the country; but it is to be restricted in extent, fettered by regulations, and burdened with heavy duties, as an object of doubtful advantage at best and only tolerable when kept under strict control.

The writers of these sentences no doubt believed that the Japanese government could not be ignorant of the conditions under which commerce languishes in this country, and that their inaction is equivalent to endorsement of the acts of those who place obstructions in the path of commerce, or to the support of those few monopolists whose existence, if future friendly commercial relations are to be maintained, is impossible. Yet these sentences are among those, we are assured, which gave the greatest umbrage to the Japanese minister in London, and materially influenced him in forwarding to Earl GRANVILLE a strong and indignant remonstrance. Would there were no ground for these complaints and the inferences drawn from them. Whether there is or not let the Japanese government pause and consider. They have it in their power to investigate the matter thoroughly; and they can ascertain beyond doubt whether we are correct in asserting that, in open violation of the treaty, Yokohama is subject to a virtual blockade which makes commerce the tool of cliques, and casts the gravest doubts on the *bond fide* of the government.—Dec. 10.

### III.

IN the second article in the issue of 10th. instant, we referred to the report of the committee of London merchants on this interesting question. With the tone and language of that report we have, for reasons already stated, no sympathy; but as there is much valuable matter embodied in it we propose to deal with some of the passages of greatest interest and utility. The report alludes to the unreasonableness of the demand made by Japan to withdraw "from the comparatively favourable treaty and tariff under which intercourse is at present carried on, and in accordance with whose provisions many important interests have gradually grown up to maturity." This assertion should have been preceded by a definite statement of what the committee believed Japan really does demand. There appears to be no intention on her part to withdraw from the present treaty until such time as new arrangements, satisfactory to all, have been negotiated and settled. Those arrangements seem to provide for a limitation and definition of extra-territorial jurisdiction, chief among which is the condition that any power claiming the exercise of such jurisdiction shall have full permission to establish courts in Japan, "otherwise there would be no courts in this country having jurisdiction in matters over which Japanese jurisdiction had been surrendered." How far this stipulation is reasonable or otherwise is capable of demonstration by reference to the condition of our settlement, which, nominally under the municipal control of the Japanese government, is virtually without any control whatever. One patent abuse of many is sufficient to show the necessity for the grant of full powers to a consular judge, or the abrogation of the authority of the nation which declines to found a court with such powers. Some of the consuls of the great powers, i.e., the powers specially represented, have sufficient authority to impose regulations upon publicans and those persons whose avocations commonsense and

public convenience alike require to be under control. But the courts of the lesser nations presided over by merchant-consuls have no such powers. Their subjects or citizens may do what they choose, and practically all forms of municipal government may be, and are, defied by a Swede, a Peruvian, or the subject of any other nation imperfectly represented, having no interests political or commercial, claiming jurisdiction, yet providing no means for its efficient exercise. In such cases, the option is given to provide suitable courts. If that option is not exercised, Japan very reasonably says, "cases might occur which there would be no court capable of entertaining. It would be improper therefore to surrender the Japanese right of jurisdiction absolutely. So jurisdiction is conceded conditionally upon the existence of a foreign court of sufficient competency, in cases where Japanese interests would otherwise be imperilled: where no Japanese interests are concerned the jurisdiction is surrendered absolutely." Plainly Japan proposes to the nations desirous of renewing their treaties to grant them jurisdiction provided steps are taken to ensure the exercise of plenary judicial functions without which it is impossible for order to be maintained, or the interests of the people of this country to be protected. Surely such a change will be manifestly to the advantage of all concerned, and tend much to the removal of some of those anomalies which are disquieting to all lovers of justice alive to the honour and reputation of their country. What can be more painful than the spectacle which may be presented at any moment? A Japanese having a valid ground of action against a British subject relies for proof on the evidence of a witness whose testimony is indispensable. That witness is an American citizen who declines to give evidence in the British court. His consular authority is appealed to, but in vain, for the consular regulations confer no power upon the consul to compel the attendance of his countrymen in foreign courts. The action is called on in the British court, and fails; not through the incompetence of the court to deal with the matter before it, but consequent upon the capricious refusal of an individual to give his testimony. This would not be a miscarriage of justice; it would be a shameful and utterly indefensible denial of justice, brought about by the neglect of a nation, otherwise irreproachable for its exact observance of other treaty obligations, to provide its representatives with jurisdiction competent to enforce a witnesses attendance, and to make him answer under all the pains and penalties that could be inflicted upon him for like recalcitration in the court of his own nation. Unsatisfactory and unsafe though we hold Japanese law to be in its application to the large and complex mercantile engagements of foreigners, it would be preferable to that condition of things instanced above. With a trifling change, POPE's well-known couplet,—

For forms of government let fools contest;  
Whate'er is best administered is best.

may be applied to the system of consular jurisdiction which renders this violation of the common right of mankind to justice possible, for that it is possible there is no doubt. The British government have made some provision for correcting and meeting this contingency. Section 118 of the orders in council empowers H. B. M. court to make an order for the attendance of a British subject in the court of any friendly nation in Japan, "in cases and under circumstances

"which would require the attendance of that British subject before one of H.B.M. courts in Japan, and if it seems to the court just and expedient so to do," and refusal to comply with the order involves severe penalties. This is a reasonable provision so far as it goes; but what would happen if a British witness in a Japanese or American court should refuse to answer? The order in council merely provides for a witnesses attendance; and is silent as to the means to be employed to compel him to answer. There is no satisfaction in the knowledge that certain Japanese are superior to the power of the court: that there are men who, like GOTO SHOJIRO, may decline to reply to questions pertinent to the cause and, the court being powerless to impose any penalty for the refusal, the consequence is the failure of an action for money lent, and a lamentable miscarriage of justice reflecting the utmost discredit upon the law which permits it. (1) The usage of Japanese courts may be reasonably urged as a reason why freemen should not be subjected to their operation, even in trifling cases involving fines not exceeding two yen for breach of municipal regulations: but it should not be permitted to excuse similar laxity in the administration of justice by the courts established in Japan by the great powers of the west. A remedy might be found in a convention between all powers holding extra-territorial jurisdiction over their people, compelling the attendance of witnesses in all courts of justice, and subjecting them in such cases to the penalties for contempt imposed by their own law. When this is done the Japanese government may then be properly asked to reform their own laws so effectually in this respect, as to prevent any further scandal like that which arose in the case alluded to. The London committee had but an imperfect understanding of the difficulties which have arisen, and may again arise in the administration of justice for which there is no redress, or they would not have written "the Japanese subject has a prompt and complete legal remedy against a British subject for any wrong sustained." Nominally the legal remedy exists, but, as shown, any witness, not a British subject, may refuse to appear to prove the plaintiff's case or to assist his defence: where, then, is the "complete legal remedy?" Were we, in following up this subject, to allude to the inefficiency of Japanese law relating to broken contracts and other evaded engagements, we should be as premature as the London committee, who apparently have not heard of, certainly not seen, the new codes of law, civil and criminal, soon to come into force, and which we understand will remove the grounds of complaint undoubtedly existing.

We had no intention to touch upon this portion of the Japanese proposals, believing that an amicable understanding will be arrived at by the respective governments; but the abuses to which our own law (and the laws of other countries as administered in Japan), is exposed justify this digression which will probably do some service by calling the attention of our respective representatives to the urgent need for reform.

Proceeding now to the draft treaty of commerce and navigation in which residents are chiefly interested, we propose to deal *seriatim* with the twenty clauses. Guided by personal experience and by the advice of others whose judgment may be relied upon, we shall state our views with much diffidence.

(1) *Da Rosa vs. Goto Shojiro*. Tokio Saibansho, March 1881.

Any member of the community, Japanese or foreign, dissenting from, or desirous of correcting, adding to, or otherwise modifying or improving anything we put forward, may do so in these columns, anonymously, if desired, and be assured that his arguments will command respectful attention. All such comments will be useful alike to the Japanese government and our own representatives, and will materially influence the decisions of those who are animated by an earnest desire to ascertain and thoroughly understand the wants of all concerned.

Article I. reads as follows:—

#### ARTICLE I.

The subjects of each of the High Contracting Parties can go in full liberty and security, with their vessels and cargoes, into all the places, ports, and rivers of the territories of the other, where commerce with other nations is authorized. They can stay and reside in all the said places, can rent and occupy houses and warehouses, they can carry on commerce there, both wholesale and retail, in all descriptions of produce, in manufactured articles, and in all non-prohibited merchandize.

In the same manner the vessels of war of the two Contracting Parties shall have the liberty to enter into all the ports, rivers, and other places in the territories of the other, where it is permitted for vessels of war of other nations to enter, to anchor there, to stop and undergo repairs, always conforming to the local regulations of the two respective countries, in so far as they are applicable to foreign vessels of war. The stipulations of this article are not applicable to the coasting-trade which each of the two High Contracting Parties reserves respectively to itself, and which it can regulate according to its own laws.

We take the meaning of this article to be that all the ports of Great Britain (2) shall be open to Japanese subjects; but only those ports in Japan now open, or to be opened, by treaty under certain conditions, shall be free to British subjects, for purposes of commerce. The coasting trade of Japan shall be reserved by the Japanese government, a strangely inconsistent condition of the reciprocity principle on which these proposals are framed; for the coast trade of Great Britain is open to all the world. There is nothing in this section in reference to the opening of new ports, a concession which if offered cannot be regarded as conducive to foreign or even native interests. The expressed opinions of all are opposed to any further subdivision of the petty trade now scattered over six ports. The interests are too small to justify further expense for their management. In the course of time another port or two might be opened for some special export, rice or other grain, or timber for instance: all that foreigners ask for now is the removal of those restrictions which close the treaty port of Yokohama, and prevent the freedom of trade intercourse specially stipulated for yet systematically disregarded. The refusal to comply with this reasonable request is held to be significant of a desire on the part of the authorities to confine commerce to few hands, a measure which effectually retards the development of those resources upon which the future of Japan depends. The really important part of this article is the coasting trade. What limitation shall be placed upon this in future is not stated, but in Sir HARRY PARKES's circular letter of April 7th, 1879 the key will be found in the following words:—"They may also propose that 'foreign vessels shall surrender the right 'they now possess of sharing, to the limited 'extent afforded them, in the carrying trade

"between the open ports." Any such condition would seriously interfere with commerce. Steamers are chartered in Europe to discharge at Yokohama and Hiogo. Are they to be prevented from taking on board cargo when offered to replace that discharged here; and take ballast to Kobe instead? The monopoly is complete enough as it is, and bears heavily upon the Japanese people in non-treaty ports. If it be known that Japanese ships only can carry between the open ports, outward freights will be at once affected, and instead of cheap local transport in vessels glad of cargo on almost any terms, we shall be burdened with freights which, unchecked by wholesome competition, will be carried to the verge of prohibition. The cheap freights offered by foreign steamers are availed of by Japanese who profit to the same extent as foreigners; even more so, because their interests are larger. Withdraw the privilege, and a large number of people will be taxed for the benefit of a steamship company which belongs either to the government or an individual:—if to the former, the objection is fatal; if to the latter, it is pertinent and forcible.

What the London committee says in reference to the charter of foreign ships by Japanese subjects to trade at all ports and places to which they themselves have access, is but a weak reflection of the view, supported by cogent argument, put forward at frequent intervals in the leading columns of this journal. The desire to foster native enterprise implied in the restrictions on the coast service is commendable; but we must look at the condition of the country. Internal communication there is virtually none. Productions of little value in comparison with their bulk or weight cannot possibly be brought down to a port where only can they be purchased by a foreigner for export; the cost of carriage would exceed their value in the market. If resort is had to a coasting steamer the freight, delay, uncertainty, all tend to the same result: the owner of the produce is never sure either of the time of delivery or the cost of carriage, and is consequently unable to make contracts the observance of which may be beyond his own control. A native born subject of Japan may not charter a foreign ship to load a cargo either for export abroad or for carriage to a coast port; and as there is no other way of carrying on trade its extension is impossible, and foreign merchants are thrown back upon silk, tea, and other valuable products which can either support the heavy charges for carriage, or are produced in the immediate vicinity of the open ports. The anomaly is, that while the people are not allowed to charter a foreign ship for the uses named, the government are and do; and every person supported by government can do the same. Foreign vessels are, at this day, frequently chartered to carry coal from Kuchinotsu to Shanghai and other ports; but the coal is taken from mines owned by government or government officials. There cannot possibly be any extension of trade while the law stringently declares that if a Japanese wishes to transport his produce to a market he must either pay the freight demanded by a monopoly company, or buy a vessel for the purpose; to hire one is an offence which would involve heavy penalties upon, and probably the confiscation of, the ship. Right of unconditional employment of foreign vessels has never been asked for. If the government are in earnest in their expressed wish to promote the commercial interests of their country, they may take the first real measure by reforming the laws

regulating the coast traffic. This was wisely done in England by enlightened statesmen who advocated the repeal of the navigation laws on the broad ground on which they had supported free trade in corn—namely, that the people of the country had an undoubted right to the best and cheapest transit of the produce of their industry; that it is the inalienable right of every man freely to exchange the result of his labour for the productions of other people, and that the practice of protecting one part of the community at the expense of all other classes was unsound and unjustifiable. If, as has been discovered in the United States, shipbuilding and shipowning are profitable, they will flourish without government aid; if they are not profitable, no subsidy or restrictions maintained at the cost of the community can do anything more than keep a sickly undertaking from deserved dissolution, on the verge of which it is always tottering. The Japanese people have intelligence amply sufficient to show them when their trade is large enough to support steamers of their own; and they have sense enough to discover the right time when to own a steamer is cheaper than to hire it. Under certain wise restrictions, and subject to a reasonable license fee payable to the government, permission to employ vessels of any nationality would give a remarkable impetus to native trade, and new industries would spring up in parts of the country which, shut out from the blessings and benefits of commerce, are sources of weakness to the state and danger to the government in lieu of being each an arrow in the bundle whose union is strength. The concession need not be permanent: a limit of three or five years may be fixed for the trial of the experiment; and if it is not found to be satisfactory, or if it is injurious to Japanese enterprise in shipbuilding, it may be withdrawn. All we hope for is a trial, and we venture most respectfully, but most earnestly, to urge the matter upon the attention of the government as a concession which, while of the highest value to their own people, would be highly appreciated by foreigners, not for the benefits accruing from the employment of their ships, which is indeed too trifling a matter to deserve consideration, but for the great stimulus it would give to production and to the consequent quickening of commerce to our common benefit.—Dec. 17.

#### CONSULAR JURISDICTION IN JAPAN.

SIR TRAVERS TWISS, the eminent jurist, at the ninth annual conference of the association for the reform and codification of the law of nations, recently held at Cologne, delivered an address under this title which has since been published in a pamphlet of fourteen pages and appears to have attracted much attention. The learned author, who has devoted great labour to the general subject and to the peculiar questions arising out of the extra-territorial clauses in the treaties between christian and non-christian countries, and who has, if we mistake not, been frequently consulted both by the Chinese and Japanese governments thereon, had, at a previous meeting of the same society, discussed the exercise of the jurisdiction clauses in the Ottoman territories. As he properly points out, China and Japan are in a different position towards foreigners in this respect. In Turkey "an equality of law between the mussulman and the christian, is, strictly speaking, impracticable, inasmuch as the koran is not merely the code

(2) By Great Britain, whenever used as an example, we mean Great Britain or any other country entering into similar treaties with Japan.



"of the mussulman's social life," but is also a political and social guide. According to the strict interpretation of the koran the evidence of a christian has no weight in a Mohammedan court of justice. He acknowledges that the government of Turkey have done everything in their power to remove or nullify this restriction, but with what success, or rather want of success, will be seen in a parliamentary paper published during the past season entitled, *Reports on the administration of justice in the civil, criminal, and commercial courts in the various provinces of the Ottoman empire* (1). In calling on the various diplomatic and consular representatives for these reports, Lord GRANVILLE specially requested information as to how far the evidence of christians is admitted before Turkish tribunals. A commission of the dragomans of the various embassies was appointed to examine the codes which had recently been adapted for Turkey from the French codes, and some of their remarks have a certain application to this country. "At present," they say, "it is not laws which are wanting in Turkey but competent men to administer them. The natives, and above all the mussulmans of which the new tribunals are composed, are, with rare exceptions, unfamiliar with the European legislation which has furnished the basis of the new laws; and the position and treatment which is accorded them are not such as would permit men of worth and talent to take service, nor will the Ottoman government employ foreigners with the qualities requisite for making good judges." And again:—"But have the porte, in borrowing from abroad a legislation more suited to the present times, sufficiently reflected on the necessity of possessing men capable of applying it, and of producing immediate and useful results?"

On the subject of the reception of christian evidence, one consul writes:—"Though admitted by law, it may fairly be said that its reception at all depends upon the influential position of the witness, and still more upon the fact of his being backed up by the consul of a powerful country." In Trebizond, the consul writes, christian evidence is nominally accepted, but no native has ever been condemned on christian testimony. The reports from the other districts are much to the same effect.

In China and Japan, however, the objections good in Turkey have no existence with regard to the reception and due consideration of evidence given in native courts by foreigners. This, *per se*, is a vital difference between these countries and Turkey. Japan has the further advantage over its larger neighbour, that it is essentially progressive; that there is no ostensible dislike or hostility to foreign intercourse; and that constant and tolerably successful attempts to legislate in the spirit of western jurisprudence have been made during the past ten years. The question of consular jurisdiction in Japan should therefore be regarded by itself, and should not be confounded with similar questions in China and Turkey, where every condition is dissimilar.

Sir TRAVERS TWISS sets before himself the task of indicating some defects in the administration of justice in Japan, and the possible remedies for these defects. At the outset, it should be said, that no one who has ever devoted any attention to his subject could have expected that a system which was anomalous at its very source should not also

present anomalies in practice. All that can be said is, that the system was the best expedient that could be devised at the time, and that it has, on the whole, worked fairly well. Its main object, namely, to withdraw foreigners from the criminal law of the country, has certainly been accomplished, and therefore it should merit the approval of the learned author who says:—"There is no precedent in the east, so far as I am aware, under which any of the European powers have consented to transfer the jurisdiction heretofore exercised by their consuls over their own subjects in criminal matters to tribunals, the judges of which should be of mixed nationality." Still, there is no doubt that whatever anomalies in the system can be removed they should be removed, and it is as an attempt of this kind that we welcome the work of Sir TRAVERS TWISS. The cases in which consular courts in Japan, as in other eastern countries, have been found inadequate to secure a satisfactory administration of justice are, he states:—

(1.) Where the parties from whom redress is sought are of more than one nationality, as a consul has no authority to compel persons of another nationality than his own to appear as defendants in his court, or to enforce judgment against them if they should appear.

This defect has never been felt in Japan. If a British subject has a complaint against an American or a member of any other treaty power, the consul of the latter can always try the case before his court, and enforce judgment. If the defendant is a subject of a non-treaty power, recourse can be had to the Japanese tribunals.

(2.) Where the necessary witnesses are of various nationalities, as a consul has no authority to enforce the attendance in his court of any witnesses who are not of his own nationality, and if the comity of other consuls should, as a matter of fact, secure the presence of such witnesses, the consular judge has no coercive jurisdiction over them, nor has he any authority to punish them for perjury.

This certainly is a real and serious defect, yet its remedy is simple if the governments of other countries would imitate Great Britain in this matter. The British government, who have done so much by orders in council and the establishment of responsible courts, to carry out to the fullest extent their part of the treaty obligations or engagements with China and Japan, and to meet the inevitable defects of an indispensable system, have also done all in their power to meet this. Clause 118 of the order in council of 1865 (2) provides that where it is shown that the attendance of a British subject to give evidence in any other court is required, an order may be made for such attendance, and a fine not exceeding 500 dollars may be inflicted for refusal to comply therewith. Still the wording of that section is vague, as it imparts an optional power to the consular authority; and we know that in more than one instance H.B.M. consul has refused to compel the attendance of witnesses in other courts. Other courts, however, have not even such optional power. The United States consular courts cannot, we believe, compel the attendance of a citizen of the United States in a foreign court as a witness (3); and probably the same is the

(2) *Digest of British Orders in Council*, 1879. p. 29.

(3) *Vide Clark v. Hall*. H. B. M. court for Japan. *Japan Gazette* February 27th, 1873. In this case an important witness declined to appear, and the U. S. acting consul-general had doubts respecting his power to enforce his attendance. Perhaps, in this case, the witness residing in Tokio may have been out of the jurisdiction of the court in Yokohama.

case with the consular authorities of other countries. Again, as we have many times pointed out in these columns, even should a witness appear there are no means of punishing him for perjury, or refusal to reply. In one well remembered case, a witness out of the jurisdiction of the court refused to give evidence except upon the condition there were no cross-examination; and there being no means of coercing the witness his conditional testimony was not received. (4)

(3) Where a Japanese subject, or a foreigner of another than the consul's nationality, is the plaintiff, the procedure and the law are governed by the consul's nationality, and although this result is in accordance with the well-known maxim of *actor sequitur forum rei* [a plaintiff follows the court of the defendant], still it is not satisfactory, when the cause of action arises in the same country in which both parties are resident, and where a different procedure and law would be applied, if the defendant were to sue the plaintiff.

This is inevitable under the circumstances; and no greater hardship is inflicted upon an Englishman forced to sue an American before the consular court of the United States in Yokohama, than would be the case if the parties, cause, and court were in Boston or New York.

One important factor in the discussion so far as this country is concerned, is the fact that, omitting from the enumeration three thousand Chinese, foreigners resident in all Japan do not exceed two thousand five hundred in number; they are confined strictly to narrow limits; and the greater powers have established competent courts presided over by trained judicial officers, to administer the laws which, in the absence of any written native law, are indispensable for the control and conduct of the vicissitudes of commerce. If foreigners were spread throughout the country and beyond the jurisdiction of their own authorities, the objections would be strong; but no person is allowed to pass beyond the settlements without special permission from his own as well as the native authorities. Thus much of the desire to abolish consular jurisdiction is a sentiment, excusable no doubt, but resting upon no real grievances.

Sir TRAVERS TWISS then proceeds to a remedy which should be the formation of special territorial courts, in which native and

(4) *Cocking v. S. S. Flintshire*, *Japan Gazette*, May 25, 1880. At the hearing of this cause in H. B. M. court, the evidence of a chemical expert was required. Dr. Geerts, director of the government laboratory, had furnished a report which was objected to by counsel for the plaintiff on the ground that the evidence should be orally given in court. Thereupon the defendant stated that Dr. Geerts had refused to appear as a witness if he were to be subjected to cross-examination. On the 1st. June following Dr. Geerts, who is a Netherlands subject, wrote a letter to the *Japan Gazette*, signed by him as "Director of the imperial government laboratory at Yokohama," from which we now reproduce two passages of peculiar significance, though the opinion of Dr. Geerts with regard to the procedure of courts of law must be received with due circumspection. Writing for a government department, Dr. Geerts said:—

"That the directors of the government laboratories decline to submit to a system of cross-examination, which does not exist in any court of justice of any civilized European country, Great Britain only excepted; and that they refuse to be cross-examined in their capacity of official experts, because the system of cross-examination is, in their opinion unjust, and in their country, illegal."

"That H. B. M. court in Japan, after having been duly informed, through the defendant, of the willingness of the directors to give to the judge or jury any further professional information required, provided there should be no cross-examination, has declined to accept a personal statement in the British court unless followed by cross-examination."

foreign judges should be associated, and which should be competent to exercise jurisdiction in all civil and commercial causes where the parties should be of different nationalities. There is no necessity now to refer to the author's opinions on the new Japanese codes further than to say that they are favourable. He points out that the courts, the establishment of which he advocates, would be no novelty in the history of judicial institutions:—"the example of England may be cited as showing that such courts have been held in England to work no derogation to the sovereign rights of the crown." We may say at once that we believe such courts would do away with many anomalies of the present system. They would not remove the necessity for consular judges, because disputes between subjects of the same nationality would still be decided by their own courts. The question then is, how far is the establishment of such courts practicable? Would such a project meet with the approval of foreign powers, and especially of the Japanese government? The principal treaty nations, such as Great Britain, the United States, Germany, and France, have already judges in this port competent to take their places in such a tribunal; but we doubt whether the lesser powers could be induced to incur the expense of appointing professional judges in Japan, and without them the court would be incomplete and ineffective. Furthermore, it would be necessary to have one such court in each port, and many countries have no representative at some of the ports. The chief objection would, we are assured, come from the Japanese government themselves. We believe that any system of mixed courts would be eminently distasteful to this country, and every obstacle would be put in the way of its successful working. Looking at the subject from a Japanese view, such a system would tend to rivet firmer the bonds of extra-territoriality under which Japan is already writhing so perceptibly; it would defer by many years the shaking off of those fetters to which most of the leading men of the country are looking so impatiently. They are forced to recognize the existence of these privileges now, but any step tending to consolidate them, or to remove the numerous anomalies which accompany them, would, we believe, meet with the most uncompromising opposition from the Japanese government.

We think, therefore, Sir TRAVERS TWISS'S suggestion is impracticable, not on account of any innate fault or defect, but because the interests and aspirations affected by it are too sensitive to be dealt with in this effective fashion. In Japanese eyes the goal of the ambition of their foreign policy would be removed indefinitely; and no argument or inducement could prevail on them to have anything to do with a project which would have such a result. In the meantime, as Japan cannot reasonably demand the submission of foreigners to an untried civil code administered by judges unversed in the customs and usages of commerce as they are understood and acted upon by foreigners whose interests are chiefly at stake, the position must perforce remain unchanged; but we hope the time is not far distant when those rights which courts of law are established to maintain may be secured to all nationalities in Japan as well as to the people without continuing to wound the strong susceptibilities of the rulers of this country.—Dec. 10.

#### A FOREIGN VIEW OF GOVERNMENT IN JAPAN.

MUCH sympathy is felt abroad for the Japanese people's desire to found a representative government promised to them nearly fourteen years ago, a promise for a long period quietly ignored to be recently renewed conditionally upon a further long interval being suffered to elapse before the imperial obligation is carried into effect. Japan shall, within eight or ten years from this time, have the privilege of popular government, is the substance of the latest edict; and woe to him, be he who he may, a leader of the people, the conductor of a newspaper, or private individual, who shall dare to dispute the propriety of the delay, or criticise the action of the responsible advisers of the sovereign in this matter. The subject is one we should not willingly touch: it is not an agreeable question for foreign writers imbued with liberal, almost republican, views of government to enter upon in a country where the true principles of government are not appreciated, and with which we have no other connection or interest than as mere onlookers: but when we find influential foreign journals devoting space to articles on Japanese politics, and the form of government in Japan, we should exhibit a false delicacy were we to refuse, in deference to the wishes of the few who control the present of this country, to quote the substance of the more remarkable of these papers.

*L'Annuaire de la Extrême Orient* for October contains a vigorous article entitled "The Japanese people and government," the substance of which we shall attempt to reproduce in English. Beginning with the restoration of the emperor, the author says:—"When the Mikado ascended the throne civil war was rife in the empire. Two great and powerful parties contended for the mastery. Ultimately that of the Tycoon succumbed, and the legitimate monarch took the real as well as nominal power. This young monarch understood the necessity of attaching to himself those classes which, up to this time had been oppressed by the feudal lords. A proclamation was issued embodying a solemn engagement, a fundamental compact, as the basis of a future constitution. This promise, made spontaneously by the executive power, and accepted by the Japanese people, was a bond or political contract between the ruler and the ruled, from which neither could deviate without the consent of the other." The well-known 'oath' of the emperor, (1) the chief clause in which was the promise to found a representative assembly, is then quoted. Continuing, the writer says:—"At the present time petitioners recall this promise, and argue as follows:—"If a government be desired in conformity with the wishes of a majority of the people, let the people be consulted. Abolish that absolutism which oppresses them and creates discontent. Destroy old corruption and take natural laws as a guide. Seek for knowledge,

(1) This memorable engagement entered into by his majesty the Mikado in April 1868, is now historical. Adams, in his *History of Japan*, thus alludes to it:—"The Mikado, in the presence of the assembled court nobles and the territorial princes, took an oath. By this oath he promised that a deliberative assembly should be formed, and all measures be decided by public opinion; that the uncivilized customs of former times should be broken through, and the impartiality and justice displayed in the workings of nature adopted as a basis of action; and that intellect and learning should be sought for throughout the world, in order to establish the foundations of the empire." Vol. II, page 127. This event took place April 6th, 1868.

develop patriotic sentiments in the minds of the people, and thus increase the vital power of the nation. To attain these ends a representative assembly should be summoned in which the public sentiment may be made known." Such is the purport of the greater number of petitions sent to the government from societies, public meetings, and even individuals of all classes in society. When we regard this truly universal wish expressed from all corners of the empire, or read the numerous petitions breathing the purest patriotism, we cannot doubt that the agitation in Japan is a truly national one; and the movement is all the more worthy of admiration that it keeps within the limits of law and order. Young Japanese who have studied in western countries have profited by their sojourn, and by the lessons which our social and political life have taught them.

The author then alludes to the vexed question of the fitness of the people for political freedom, and says,—"Those people are fit for freedom who can put forward such great utterances of the people's rights as the Japanese have done." Many of these utterances are then quoted, some of them being familiar to those of us who have attempted to follow the movement, thus:—"Man forms nations and makes laws; but in Japan, from the most remote period, the government alone have undertaken the administration of the empire. Is this the form of government sanctioned by heaven?" "The country belongs to the entire nation, and is not the private property of the government." Expressing approval of the sentiments embodied in these and other quotations the writer continues,—"A people knowing the extent of their rights and duties, and knowing how to express and discuss them so wisely and quietly, should inspire confidence in their moderation and the use they are likely to make of their liberty. Until recently the Japanese people were governed almost as a conquered race by the two-sworded class. This has now been altered, and all classes are eligible for official appointments. But the ministers were used to the old indifference of the people to political affairs, and imagined then still in the same state." Here we must dissent somewhat from the views of this otherwise impartial and accurate reasoner. The government now in power are not the government formed upon the restoration of the temporal authority of the MIKADO. The earlier ministers were men of the highest rank and influence, whose functions have been, so to speak, usurped by their subordinates. The MIKADO'S oath to govern constitutionally was taken under the direction of the nobles, who clearly foresaw that the overturn of the power of the feudal lords could never be completely accomplished unless the new government should have a secure foundation on the suffrages of the people. This prudent resolve to associate the chiefs of the population, the men materially interested in the well-being of their country, with the government, and to give them a share of the responsibility of every act calculated to affect the common welfare, was dictated by the highest wisdom; and there is no reason to doubt the fulfilment of the promise within a convenient time had not events led to the retirement of those ministers, and the rise of others who, themselves sprung from the ranks, hold the people to be unfit for the enjoyment of the political franchise. Had the existing government been in power in 1868, and impressed, as our author seems to think they were, with the indifference of the people to political affairs, it is difficult to see why they should

have committed themselves to a promise which could not then have had any value in the eyes of a people careless of the form of government under which they lived. In following up this subject the writer adds.—‘They (the ministers) did not see that from contact with European nations the people gradually imbibed western notions, and began to criticise the acts of their government; in fact, that a force known as Public Opinion was springing up in Japan.’

‘The severity shown towards public meetings and political societies, does not give us much reason to hope that the people are about to acquire representative institutions. The usual argument in favour of withholding them is that the people are not advanced sufficiently, and are not yet capable of administering their own affairs. By this system of reasoning all reform might be indefinitely postponed, for it is clear that a nation experimenting with a new form of government must work to some extent in the dark, and make mistakes until the experience requisite for the proper working of its institutions has been acquired.’

‘The Japanese have taken giant strides in the march of civilization, and the government would be committing a great fault were they to compare the progress of civilization and public manners in Europe with that of their own country. If progress was slow in western countries, and centuries elapsed before it reached the height to which it has now attained, Japan is far from being similarly situated. Europe has civilised herself by her own exertions and her progress was necessarily slow for each generation added a stone to the social edifice. Oriental nations are much more favourably situated. They do not stand alone; they have models under their eyes. The study of and contact with western political life must form and improve them rapidly, so that progress which, with us, has been the growth of centuries of labour, should be, with them, the fruit of study, observation and intelligence alone.’

The article from which these passages are selected is too long for our columns if translated in full, and we have endeavoured faithfully to summarize the views of the writer on the question which can never cease to agitate the mind of the Japanese people until their legitimate aspiration for representative government is achieved and verified. The tenor of the article, it will be seen, strenuously advocates the position that the Japanese people are fit for representative institutions; and that, to verify his majesty's solemn vow, they should no longer be withheld. Finally we should add that the article, which has attracted much attention in Europe for the light it throws on the form of government in Japan in relation to the people, is signed by “Louis Basangeon, member of the Indo-Chinese Academical Society.”—Dec. 17.

THE *Mai Nichi Shinbun* speculates as to the future domestic policy of the Imperial government and as to whether it will be one of speedy or gradual progress. Judging from the recent decree our contemporary thinks it will be the latter. The idea of establishing a special government organ appears to be knocked on the head. The *Mai Nichi* asserts that the executive have purchased the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* through whose columns they will in future defend themselves against the popular outcry for the “rights of the people.”

## Miscellaneous Articles.

### ANCIENT SANSKRIT MANUSCRIPTS IN JAPAN.

PROFESSOR Max Müller of Oxford has recently republished his well-known “Chips from a German Workshop” in a modified form, under the title of “Selected Essays on Language, Mythology and Religion.” In the new volumes are the more important of the essays in the previous work, and some of the papers written since it was published. Among these latter is one on Sanskrit texts discovered in Japan, read before the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain. The paper is somewhat technical, and as much interest has been excited here by this discovery, we propose summarizing the remarks of Professor Müller, omitting such as are technical or of minor interest in this country.

Professor H. H. Wilson, the eminent oriental scholar, and president of the Asiatic Society, seems to have been the first to surmise that some original Sanskrit texts, the Chinese translations of which were found in abundance, must still exist in monasteries in China. He sought for these through the influence of Sir John Bowring, the superintendent of British trade in China. A list of the Sanskrit works known to have been taken to China from India by the celebrated Chinese traveller Hsien-tsang, in the middle of the seventh century of our era, was sent out to China. In addition it was known that even long before this time large numbers of Sanskrit manuscripts had been exported to China; and from the time that Buddhism was first officially recognized in China, there is an almost unbroken succession of importers and translators of Buddhist and in some cases of Brahmanic texts also. It was the publication of Hsien-tsang's travels by Stanislas Julien that first excited hopes of the recovery of some of these ancient Sanskrit works in China. The search was carried on without success. A number of interesting Chinese translations, works by native Chinese Buddhists, catalogues of Buddhist libraries, &c. were procured, but no Sanskrit manuscripts or copies of manuscripts were forthcoming. But the existence of such was undoubted. It was believed that as in India, so in China, when manuscripts became worn out, or were about to become illegible they were copied.

Professor Müller states that being convinced of this he lost no opportunity during the last quarter of a century of asking any friends who went to China to look out for these treasures, but in vain. Some years ago, however, Dr. Edkins, who had taken an active part in the search instituted by Professor Wilson and Sir John Bowring, showed him a book found in Japan which contained a Chinese vocabulary with Sanskrit equivalents and a transliteration in Japanese. This revived his hopes. If such a book were published in Japan, he concluded there must have been a time when such a book was useful here, that is to say, when Buddhists in Japan studied Sanskrit. Soon afterwards, while he was looking forward to more information from Japan, a young Buddhist priest, Mr. Bunyū Nanjō, arrived at Oxford, in order to learn Sanskrit and Pāli, and thus be able in time to read the sacred writings of the Buddhists in their original language, and

to compare them with the Chinese and Japanese translations now current in Japan. A second priest, Mr. Kasawara, came shortly after for a similar purpose, and Professor Müller got them to write to their friends to ascertain whether any texts in the same alphabets as Dr. Edkins's book were to be found in Japan. The result was a book sent by a Mr. Ishikawa, commencing with the introductory formula of all the Buddhist Sūtras. This turned out to be a Sanskrit text, carried from India to China, from China to Japan, written in the peculiar Nepalese alphabet, with a Chinese translation, and a trans-literation in Japanese, and was therefore one of the long sought literary treasures. In a brief account of the introduction of Buddhism to Japan, Professor Müller dwells on the fact that Japanese studied the teachings of Buddha as well as Buddhist literature in China and even in India, and that they brought back books from both countries. This makes it quite clear that we have every right to expect Sanskrit manuscripts, or at all events Sanskrit texts, in Japan, and the specimen now discovered encourages the hope that some of these Sanskrit texts may be older than any which exist at present in India. This text is called the *Sukhavatī-vyūha*, and five copies of this Sūtra are known to exist in Europe, but that from Japan differs from all these. It is unnecessary here to give the translation, or Professor Müller's arguments, but the conclusion at which he arrives is that the text is one of which we had no trace before, which must have left India at least before 400 A.D., but probably before 200 A.D. The book was first published in Japan in 1773 by Liōmiō, a Buddhist priest. It is the most popular and most widely read Sūtra in Japan, and the whole religion of the great mass of the people may be said to be founded on it. He goes on to ask whether it is not high time that the millions who live in Japan, and profess a faith in Buddha, instead of depending, as they now do, on Chinese translations not always accurate or degraded and degrading Buddhistic tracts, should have Japanese translations of the best portions of Buddha's real doctrine, which would elevate their character, and give them a religion of which they need not be ashamed. He looks forward to much good being done in this direction by the young men already in England, and promises to help any more that come in their studies. “There is a great future in store, I believe, for those Eastern Islands, which have been called prophetically ‘The England of the East,’ and to purify and reform their religion—that is, to bring it back to its original form—is a work that must be done before anything else can be attempted.” He hopes that, in return, the Japanese students and their friends will do all they can to discover, if possible, in Japan, China and Korea, some more of these ancient Sanskrit texts. “With the help of such manuscripts we shall be able to show those devoted students who from the extreme east have come to the extreme west in order to learn to read their sacred writings in the original Sanskrit and Pāli, what difference there is between the simple teaching of Buddha and the later developments and corruptions of Buddhism.”

Soon after this paper was read, Mr. Wylie, of Shanghai, sent Professor Müller a large number of Sanskrit-Chinese books which he had procured in Japan. They were chiefly written to teach the Sanskrit alphabet, and the circumstance therefore augurs well for the existence of Sanskrit texts. The preface

to one of these mentions the existence in 1727, at Hôrinji near Kioto, of palm leaves containing texts of Sanscrit Sûtras. On inquiry in Japan it turned out that the priests of this monastery had recently surrendered their valuables to the imperial government, and that the ancient palm leaves had been presented to the emperor. These manuscripts were said, in a chronicle kept at the temple, to be brought from China in the sixth century of our era, and would therefore, in fact, "be the oldest Sanscrit manuscripts now in existence." The assistance of the Japanese envoy in London is invoked to obtain the permission of the minister of the department of the imperial household to allow these to be carefully copied or photographed. This will doubtless readily be granted, and we may expect shortly the result of the examination of these interesting remains by European scholars.—Dec. 10.

### TEMMEI CHINJUTSUROKU.

#### A TRUE RECORD OF THE WONDERFUL EVENTS WHICH HAPPENED IN THE YEAR OF TEMMEI, 1782.

WHEN Asamayama in Shinshiu first began to burn is unknown, but it is probably thought that it burst out about the 1st. year of Temmei (1781). It was then very powerful and violent. In the spring of the 3rd. year of Temmei (1783) it became still more powerful and hot, and the people of the neighbourhood thought that a fire had broken out near them. For many days in the summer of this year (1783) there was much rain, and it was very unusual to have clear weather. For two days, the 7th. and the 8th. of the 7th. month, this mountain shook and roared very violently and flames were thrown out. The two villages, Oiwake and Karuizawa at the foot of this mountain were covered with melted lava, and also the places, Usuitoge, Sakamoto, Annaka, Miogi, &c., severely suffered. All the mountains to the east of Karuizawa began to blow out flames, and several villages, places covered with wood, &c., were burnt or became loose like marshes and gradually to run away. Seeing this the people were greatly frightened and tried to go up into the mountains or to retreat into woods in order to escape from this terrible destruction. But they could not all escape and a great many were buried in the hot loose ashes. It was a very gloomy state. Sometimes a great many large stones, from 8 or 9 ken in length to 10 or 30 ken [about 43-54 feet by 60-180 feet] in thickness, were thrown up in the air, like leaves of trees. As soon as these stones dropped on the surface of the land they melted away and ran about. It was very difficult to avert calamities like this with human power. The number of the people and animals which were destroyed was very great.

The destruction was rather small and weak in Shinshiu, but was very violent and strong in the eastern parts of Asamayama.

At this time, Joshii suffered greatly and on part of the boundary line of Joshii and Shinshiu so much sand fell that it reached to the height of 1 jo and 4 or 5 shaku [about 14-15 feet]. In the neighbourhood of Usui it was particularly great, and even in the very precipitous hollow place called "Hannoishi" there was so much ash that it seemed like level ground. In the villages, Annaka, Matsuida, Kuragano, Takasaki, etc., the sand was heaped up to the

height of 5 or 6 to 8 or 9, shaku [shaku=about one foot]. In Musashi, Shimosa, Kadzusa, Hitachi, Shimotsuke, etc., it was also very remarkable. In the villages, Honjo, etc., on the boundary of Musashi and Kadzusa, the night and the day were equally dark. This lasted for two days and no one knew when it was daybreak. The earth shook very violently and the doors and the windows were opened. No one could tell anything and there was only silence in the houses. It was unexpected that any one should have been left alive. When the people saw and worshipped the sun they thought that they had risen from the dead or awoke from a dream. There was no distinction between the roads and the fields. In Kuragano (a village in Joshii) a large stone, 44 ken long and more than 20 ken wide, [264×120 feet] fell in a river and it seemed like an island. Not only this large stone, but also many other large ones dropped as abundantly as the leaves of trees.

At this time, the colour of the waters which were carried into the river Tonegawa by this accident, made them appear as if they carried some poison, and on account of the strength of the water a great many dead people and animals and cattle were carried away by this river. By the order of the government all the dead bodies were taken up from the river and buried. In consequence of the poisonous nature of the water a great many fish of various kinds became sick and went slowly floating down on the surface of the water. They could be caught with the hand and they were brought into Yedo, and every where in such quantity that the price of fish was very low. But the people who ate these fishes, were said to have become sick themselves.

As it was unknown how far the destruction had extended, some of the people in Shinshiu went to Joshii and there they saw many dead people. Some had been killed by stones, some had died in a marsh and only their heads could be seen, some had died holding on to trees or bamboos. Everything was in a very dreadful state.

I was told by an old man that "In ancient times, in the year of Hôei (1707) there was an eruption of Fujiyama and the ashes fell on all the neighboring countries: Yedo was then quite dark for one day and one night: but melted lava had not run here and there like the streams at the time of the eruption of Asama."

Yedo began to shake and a roar to be heard in the dawn of the 7th day of the 7th month of the 3rd year of Temmei (1783). It was very cloudy all day. Particularly in the north-western part of Yedo it was very dark and the noises like those of thunder were very frightful. In some parts of Yedo ashes fell down and accumulated to a thickness of about 2 sun [sun=1-2 inch]. It was very different when the wind changed. The doors and the shoji (paper doors) of some of the houses came out by the shaking.

The various events which happened at this time could not be described with the pen nor could they be told with the tongue. At this time, the Kanto (eastern countries) and Ou (north-eastern countries) had bad crops and famine was universal. It is said that the shaking and the noises extended to the Gokinai (Yamashiro, Yamato, Kawachi, Idzumi and Settsu), the Tosando (Ômi, Mino, Hida, Kotsuke, Shimotsuke, Mutsu and Dewa) and the Saikaido (Chikuzen, Chikugo, Buzen, Bungo, Hizen, Higo, Hinga, Osumi, Satsuma and Iki), &c.

In both the 5th. and the 6th. months during the summer of the 6th. year of Temmei (1786) it was always rainy weather and then there were no dry hot summer-like days. Some of the people talked with each other about this very pleasant weather and the general coolness. Some of them in consequence of the unusual state of the weather were afraid lest some calamity should fall upon them. At times it was so unpleasantly cool that persons who had to put on dresses of ceremony had to wear under the single summer clothes double winter clothes. Every day it rained heavily. Particularly during three days, the 14th, the 15th and the 16th days of the 7th month, the rain was exceedingly great and it was quite impossible to go out of doors. On the morning of the 17th day, the water began to overflow Koishikawa and in the Mito yashiki boats had been used. This flood quickly extended and the waters at last ran into the river Kanda-gawa. It was reported that the two bridges, Shoheibashi and Sujikaimitsuke, were about to be swept away.

All the places near the well Kaga-ido (near the Mito Yashiki) and the Hirokoji (name of a wide road), &c., were changed into rapids, and people who went there to see the flood were drowned in large numbers. Onarikaido, Shitaya (neighbourhood of Uyenô), Minowa behind Uyenô, &c., were also converted into rapids and the people could not communicate with each other. The samurai or officers who lived there called for boats, but the boat-men would not bring them without receiving large payment. They, therefore, paid them a large sum of money and by the boats went to their business. In the Kameido village (north-eastern extremity of Tokio) and its neighbourhood, the water came up near to the beams of the roofs. The people there climbed up on to the roof and cried with a miserable voice. At last many of them became weak and were either drowned or starved. Some of them held on to trees and bamboos and were carried here and there before they were drowned.

At this time the government ordered the boat shops in Yedo to send out life-boats to save the people from being drowned, but the number of people saved by these boats was limited, because if too many of them got into one they would be sunk. But when the people who were crying very sadly saw the boats they thought themselves to be dreaming and each of them desired to get into the boat, without distinction between friends, brothers, sisters, parents, children, etc., but whilst each batch of them were being transported, those who were left behind for a while were very sad and cried pitifully. It is said that things looked as if in hell. In the neighborhood of the Buddhist temple Gohinaku-rikanji, the water also overflowed. A great many people climbed upon the roof of this temple and tried to avoid drowning, but as there was nothing to eat on the top of this large temple they began to be hungry. The priests perceiving this, made a large quantity of rice-gruel and gave it to them, transporting it by a boat.

The running of the water in the river Okawa (a different name of Sumidagawa) was very quick and powerful, and it was difficult to cross it in a straight line. In consequence of this some of the boats were carried away and some samurai, some daimio, and some common people landed in Takanawa, Shinagawa or Omori, &c. Some of the people who remembered the flood in 3rd year of Meiwa (1765) thought that the flood



at this time could not become so violent and powerful as that in the past, and they were easy in their mind and despised the flood. But as this flood was unexpectedly and extraordinarily violent these people were all drowned. The people who were, at first, afraid and astonished at the flood and made preparations to escape, saved their lives.

The bridge Adzumabashi was broken in the middle, and both the Yetaibashi and the Ohashi were carried away by the flood. On the bridge Riogokubashi, as there was a city-hall, two mayors, together with many inferior officers and servants, went there. It was with difficulty that the bridge was kept safely from the raging waters. It was greatly bent from side to side and could not be passed over.

It is said that the height of the water of the flood at this time was about 5 shaku higher than that in the former time (1765).

JOHN MILNE.

—Dec. 10.

## Reports.

### THE "WANDERER," R. Y. S.

WHEN the flying squadron arrived at Yokohama in October last the officers reported having met the *Wanderer*, of the Royal Yacht Squadron, at Levuka, and that the little steamer intended sailing the day after the squadron left, for Honolulu, from whence she might be expected to arrive in a short time at Yokohama. She cast anchor in the bay yesterday afternoon (Dec. 11th.), taking up a berth near the lighthouse tender *Meiji Maru*.

For the following particulars of the *Wanderer* and her wanderings we are indebted to her courteous commander, Captain A. Gordon.

She is a composite vessel of 840 tons displacement, 186 ft. in length, 24.5 ft. beam, and 15 feet depth of hold, schooner rigged, carrying a spread of 16,000 square feet of canvas. She was built in 1878 by R. & W. Steele, of Greenwich, and engine by Day & Summers, of Southampton. Her engines are 700 horse-power, and on a trial trip she steamed twelve knots an hour.

In August 1880 the *Wanderer's* owner, Mr. C. J. Lambert, fitted up the vessel for a cruise round the world—an excursion which is becoming more fashionable as civilization progresses. As Mr. Lambert intended taking his family, the vessel was fitted with every necessary and luxury that the most fastidious taste could desire for so long a voyage.

Everything being in readiness, the excursionists, consisting of Mr. C. J. Lambert, Mrs. Lambert, Miss Lambert, Miss B. Lambert, Mr. R. T. Lambert, Masters M. Lambert and W. Lambert, Miss Power, Rev. J. Weatherall, Mr. R. T. Pritchett, and four servants, embarked in August under the protecting care of Captain A. Gordon and a crew of officers and men numbering fifty-three. As it was intended to call at several barbarous countries, the inhabitants of which have a reputation for treachery, care was taken to arm the vessel sufficiently to enable a successful resistance to be made to an attack from savages. On the port side aft was affixed a ten-barrelled Nordenfeldt gun, capable of being depressed so as to fire into a boat within ten yards of the steamer. On the opposite side was a similar weapon, with only five barrels. In the fore part of the

vessel a couple of nine-pounder Armstrong guns were placed, and below Martini-Henry and Soper rifles and cutlasses, sufficient to arm the entire crew. Fortunately there has been no occasion to use these weapons except for practice.

The first place visited was Vigo, in Spain. From thence the *Wanderer* proceeded to Lisbon, Madeira, and the river Gabon, on the west-coast of Africa. Here the natives were seen in all their barbarous glory. The chief of the Fan tribe ordered a grand dance, which lasted all night, to be performed for the special edification of the travellers. After remaining in this locality for a period of ten days, the vessel's head was turned to St. Helena, which was reached without accident, thence to the Brazils, calling at Bahia and Rio de Janeiro. At the latter port the yacht was visited by the Emperor and suite who took lunch on board. The next places visited were Monte Video and Buenos Ayres, a fortnight being spent at each. The *Wanderer* was then turned towards the river Chupat, in Patagonia, on the banks of which is a small Welsh colony numbering about three hundred. The inhabitants live by the cultivation of wheat, and are dependent on the river overflowing the low lands for a good crop. If the river does not rise above its banks the settlers have a bad harvest.

Christmas was spent at Elizabeth island, where geese, ducks and other wild fowl were found in great numbers, and the travellers succeeded in making some very large "bags." Elizabeth island was named by Sir Francis Drake after Queen Elizabeth. It is seven miles long and averages about a mile and a half in width. At present it is rented by an Englishman who has about one thousand sheep feeding upon it. During the breeding season, from January to September, the island is covered with geese, white swans with black heads, and duck of all known kinds. Two other islands close by, named Santa Marta and Magdalene, were also visited, and upon which were found immense flocks of gulls and cormorants. The nests of these birds presented a unique and picturesque appearance. With a regularity truly surprising they dotted the surface of the earth, each nest being built of mud, square on the outside and round inside, a foot or so in height, and situate about three feet from its neighbour.

The Chilean settlement Sandy Point was the next place called at by the *Wanderer*; and after taking in a fresh supply of coal the yacht made her way through the Straits of Magellan. On the first night anchor was cast in Borja Bay. Here information was received of a schooner having gone ashore at the entrance of Fitzroy channel, which connects the Otway with Skyring Water, and the *Wanderer*, after a little delay as possible, started to render assistance to the distressed vessel and found her under weigh, all well but short of provisions. The immediate wants of the schooner having been liberally supplied from the stores of the *Wanderer*, the yacht proceeded to Skyring Water. Here the coal mines were visited, but the coal procured was found to be of very inferior quality.

Retracing her steps the *Wanderer* passed through the straits by Smyth's channel into the Pacific, anchoring at Isthmus bay, Porto Bueno and Port Grappler, and proceeded thence to Valparaiso, arriving at that port on the 13th January this year. After cruising for a period of five months the island of Juan Fernandez, of Robinson Crusoe celebrity, was visited. The island was found to

contain about forty inhabitants. It is a Chilean settlement, but is rented by a Swiss, who maintains himself and family by rearing cattle and cutting the splendid myrtlewood in which the island is rich. Fish are very numerous. The crew of the *Wanderer* caught about five hundred pounds in the course of an hour. About the year 1869 Juan Fernandez was visited by H.M.S. *Topaz*, when Commodore Powell and his officers erected a brass tablet to the memory of Alexander Selkirk.

On the 6th. June the *Wanderer's* voyage round the world was resumed, and the next stoppage was at one of the Marquesa group, where Mr. Lambert invested in a large number of native weapons. Tahiti, Eimo, Raiatea and Bora Bora were visited, then the Tonga group and thence to Fiji. At Levuka the *Wanderer* met the flying squadron. From Fiji the yacht proceeded to Honolulu and Kalakaua Bay, the latter being celebrated as the place where Captain Cook met his death. Hawaii was next called at, and the *Wanderer* then returned to Honolulu. King Kalakaua, who had just returned from his expedition to Europe, went on board the yacht and partook of lunch. Maui, an island of the same group, was the next place visited by the steamer, taking as guests the Dowager Queen Emma and her suite.

On the 16th. November the yacht started on her voyage to Yokohama, under sail, arriving here after a passage of twenty-three days and twenty hours. We are given to understand she will remain here about a week and then proceed to Kobe, Nagasaki, via the inland sea, Shanghai, Hongkong, Singapore, Penang, Ceylon thence into the Mediterranean, and it is anticipated she will arrive home about the first week in August, when she will have been two years away.

The *Wanderer* is elegantly fitted up, but her interior must be seen to be appreciated. No hasty description can give an adequate idea of the beauty of the vessel or the numberless curiosities from many lands which adorn the sides and roofs of the cabins. The deck saloon is handsomely furnished as a drawing room, and here the ladies spend the greater portion of their time. The walls are adorned with sketches from the brush of Mr. Pritchett and with all sorts of curiosities, and in the dining saloon is an excellent library, a fire place and mantel-piece, on which stands a very handsome time-piece. The room is large and well furnished. The young ladies' cabin is more like a fairy palace than anything else; and the boys' cabin is decorated with all sorts of articles they have collected during their long journey.

### "THE PALACE OF TRUTH."

THE performance given last evening (13th Dec.) though excellent in all respects did not quite fulfil the sanguine expectations its announcement had given rise to, but the fault lay with the piece, not with the performers. Mr. Gilbert's merit as a composer of *opéra-bouffe* is undoubted, but when he ventures upon comedy or even melodrama he seems to subject his powers to a strain they seem incapable of supporting. The *Palace of Truth* affords abundant evidence of this. That our amateurs should have ventured to reproduce it is significant of courage worthy of better things. With one exception, the part of *King Phunor*, every character is so drawn that in its presentation the genius of the greatest

actor, exerted to the utmost, would be lost, or altogether hidden. The ladies and gentlemen who here did their utmost to endow their parts with *verve*, deserve infinite credit for the clever manner in which they commanded the attention of one of the largest assemblages ever gathered in the theatre all through the three long acts into which this "fairy comedy" is divided, for the *Palace of Truth* presents difficulties which many amateurs would hesitate to encounter, not the least of them being that it is written in blank verse. It is also somewhat esoteric in its character and is apt to be considered a trifle too classical to suit the taste for sensationalism which is believed to be so prevalent amongst both play-actors and play-goers. The following was the *caste* :—

KING PHANOR .....	Mr. A. MITCHELL.
PRINCE PHILAMIR .....	Mr. B. DURANT.
CHRYSAI .....	Mr. W. J. S. SHAND.
ZORAM .....	Mr. W. DE RUSSETT.
ARISTEUS .....	Mr. J. LECKIE.
GELANOR .....	Mr. T. BREWER.
QUEEN ALTEMIRE .....	
PRINCESS ZEOLIDE .....	} LADIES
MIRZA .....	
PALMIS .....	
ASEMA .....	

As the drama is now to this part of the world, it may not be out of place to give a brief sketch of its plot for the benefit of those who were unable to be present at the performance.

To begin then, the *Palace of Truth* is a fairy comedy in three acts by W. S. Gilbert, whose name alone ought to be but is not a sufficient guarantee for its worth. He is well known as a dramatic author and contributor to periodical literature. In conjunction with Dr. Arthur Sullivan he has brought out several comic operas, such as *Trial by Jury*, the *Sorcerer*, *H.M.S. Pinafore*, and the *Pirates of Penzance*, which last, in spite of its many good points, does not appear to have hit the popular taste to anything like the same extent as its more favoured predecessor. The *Palace of Truth* was not an original conception on the part of Mr. Gilbert for it is said to be based on a story by Madame de Genlis. In the first act the curtain rises on the garden of *King Phanor's* country house. His majesty is discovered with *Palmis*, a lady, and *Chrysal*, *Zoram*, and *Aristeus*, gentlemen belonging to his court. *Phanor*, like many other excellent people, imagines himself to be possessed of a decided talent for music whilst at the same time he is entirely innocent of the simplest principles of time and tune. At the moment of being introduced to the audience he is in the act of finishing a recitation which he is accompanying on a mandolin in a ridiculously affected manner. The lady maintains a wise silence but *Zoram* and *Chrysal*—toddies and courtiers "to the manner born"—applaud most rapturously and beg him to "oblige again," which with very little pressing he does. The practised flatterers bespatter the royal musician with fulsome compliments but *Aristeus*, who all this while has stood apart in sullen silence declines to mince matters. To use his own words, he is "blunt and honest" (and therefore an intolerable boor), he cannot "teach his tongue to lie!"—

I tell the truth sir. If you want to know  
My estimate of what you've given us,  
I think your poetry contemptible—  
Your melody, my lord, beneath contempt.

These are home truths, and as such are not relished by the vain but good-humoured monarch though he pretends to take them in good part. This by-play between *Phanor* and *Aristeus* furnishes the keynote of the plot which

is nothing more nor less than the constant warfare that is being waged between truth and falsehood, sham and reality.

*Queen Altemire* and *Mirza* now appear upon the scene and the story begins to develop itself. Whether truth or falsehood be the theme whoever heard of a play or a novel without a love affair? The *Palace of Truth* is no exception to the rule.

The king and queen have "one fair daughter and no more" who is partly betrothed to *Prince Philamir*; much as the royal couple desire the marriage, they do not particularly wish that the *Princess Zeolide* should give her hand without her heart, but cannot for the life of them find out the true state of her feelings. There is, or appears to be, no mistake about the gallant prince's sentiments. He woos in the orthodox manner with "songs of love" "bursts of metaphor;" but his lady love answers his ardent protestations with a simple "I love you *Philamir*," and not a word more. This puzzles him and puzzles them all, except *Mirza*, who imagines she has discovered the true state of the case. Love is proverbially blind and so it proves with *Mirza*—that "queen of woman kind" as she is called. She is secretly in love with *Philamir*, and therefore cherishes the pleasing delusion that *Zeolide* does not care for him, that in fact she is "sacrificing her earthly happiness for sordid ends of selfish policy." She tells the king and queen so in as many words, and urges them to break off the match. Gratuitous, disinterested (?) advice seldom proves acceptable and this was a case in point; *Mirza* received a polite snubbing for her pains. A scene then followed between *Zeolide* and *Philamir* in which the former is apparently cool and certainly reserved, and the latter seemingly enthusiastic and unmistakably communicative. There is, however, an undercurrent on both sides which, as the dialogue progresses becomes manifest to the audience. Under the mask of indifference *Zeolide* ardently and passionately loves *Philamir* whilst he, under the appearance of the most uncontrollable affection, secretly has an eye to the many advantages which will accrue to him from the match. All this, without any undue straining after effect, is skillfully implied by the author.

In the midst of this dilemma *Phanor* suddenly hits on a plan of discovering how matters really stand. About twenty miles distant from his country house he possesses an enchanted palace, in fact a "palace of truth," but let him describe it in his own words :—

The palace is enchanted. Everyone  
Who enters there is bound to speak the truth—  
The simple unadulterated truth.  
To every question that is put to him  
He must return the unaffected truth.  
And strange to say, while publishing the truth  
He's no idea that he is doing so.  
And while he lets innumerable cats  
Out of unnumbered bags, he quite believes  
That all the while he's tightening the strings  
That keep them from a too censorious world.

*Phanor* has secrets of his own that he would not care to divulge to his wife. Why then does he run the risk of bringing her to a place where all meet on equal terms and where every-one, *volens volens* must "make a clean breast of it?" The fact is he has guarded against any such mishaps. He has a talisman—

—a crystal box :—  
Whoever carries it within those walls,  
May overcome the castle's influence,  
And utter truth or falsehood as he wills.

Whilst all around him are blurring out all manner of inconvenient truths he has still the power of lying to his heart's content. The curtain descends on Act. I. as the party are preparing to set out for the mystic palace.

In the second act the party are discovered in one of the halls of the "palace of truth" where, as may be readily imagined, everything is "confusion worse confounded." Everyone stands confessed and unmasked. The sacred nature of truth is no longer economised. *Zeolide* and *Philamir* are not long in discovering what they might have known from the first, that the love was all on the lady's side and that he—as far as he was capable of caring for anyone—was desperately smitten with *Mirza*. The courtiers call one another anything but gentlemen and, worst of all, the queen finds that the king—to put it mildly—is not altogether above carrying on an innocent flirtation intolerable to one so jealous as herself. All these awkward disclosures are made by the parties themselves who are entirely unconscious that they are doing anything of the kind. A new character is introduced, *Azema*, who flirts right and left with anybody and everybody and who eventually succeeds in captivating king *Phanor* with her charms. But the influence of this strange place will be best explained by the following soliloquy of *Philamir's* :—

This palace is enchanted ground! It's plain  
That there's some subtle influence at work,  
Affecting every-body here but me!  
*Chrysal*, the honey-tongued, turns out to be  
A blunt and scurrilous outspoken boor;  
*Zoram*, the musical enthusiast,  
Can hardly tell the treble from the bass;  
Then *Aristaus*, surly blunt and gruff;  
Turns out to be the gentlest soul alive;  
And most inexplicable change of all,  
The amiable but prudish *Zeolide*  
Becomes a foolish vixen, blind with love!  
Maddened with jealous and unreasoning rage!  
Then comes a girl—a common place coquette—  
Who, while she lays her plans with practised  
skill,  
Explains their aim, and holds them to the light  
That all may see their arrant hollowness!  
It's evident there's some enchantment here  
That shows up human nature as it is.

*Philamir*, as we have seen, is not so free from the spell as he imagines. After showing himself in his true character to *Zeolide* he declares his love to *Mirza*, and that paragon of woman-kind plainly shows how amply she returns it. Indeed, as the play proceeds, she reveals her hand a great deal more than skilful players care to do.

Matters also had not fared with the king quite as well as he anticipated. It will be remembered that he relied on a crystal box as a talisman that would render him impervious to the spell which entranced everyone else. But *Mirza*, the innocent, guileless, unsophisticated *Mirza* whom nobody suspected, had been one too many for him. She had cunningly exchanged the particular box for another that was an exact counterpart of it. *Phanor* did not discover the exchange or robbery—which, the proverb notwithstanding, are sometimes convertible and interchangeable terms—until he detected himself confessing to the queen an assignation he had arranged with *Azema*. He puts his hand into his pocket in search of the treasure and finds it gone. He is overwhelmed with consternation, falls fainting into a chair, and the curtain descends on Act II.

In the third act the scene is changed to the avenue of palms in the grounds of the enchanted castle. The time is night. Everything continues at sixes and sevens between the luckless visitors. The courtiers *Chrysal* and *Zoram* are planning a duel which neither of them have courage enough to fight; even the little they possess oozes out at their fingers' ends the moment they attempt to cross swords. The king and queen are at large he da, *Zeolide* and *Philamir* are estranged, whilst *Mirza* is secretly intent on mischief, and *Azema* openly

bent on flirtation. This curious state of affairs continues until the queen, who has accidentally learnt the secret of the crystal box, snatches it from *Mirza*, and throws it on the ground: a loud crash is heard and the palace is at once disenchanted. Everything then flows in the usual channel; the lovers are united, quarrels are forgiven and forgotten, and everything goes as "merry as a marriage bell," except that the gentle *Mirza* has somewhat fallen from her first estate. The moral of the story probably is, that however good and beautiful truth may be in itself, it is not always prudent to indulge in it; and that lying is at least politic at times even if it is not commendable.

We may here state that the *Palace of Truth* was first put on the "boards" at the Haymarket Theatre in 1870, when it had a long and successful run, Mr. Buckstone, Mr. Kendall and Mrs. Chippendale taking the principal characters.

Now comes the hardest task—that of apportioning to each his or her wonted meed of praise or censure. Where all did well, as was the case last night, the difficulty is lessened, though it becomes none the less invidious. Duty, however, must be done though it may not be always pleasant. Gallantry suggests *place aux dames*; but regularity, and the "unities of the drama" compel us to take the *dramatis personæ* in the order in which Mr. Gilbert has classed them; we therefore hope the ladies will pardon us for thus apparently placing them in the back ground.

*King Phanor* (Mr. A. Mitchell) was an excellent representation of eccentric comedy. His ease and self possession were wonderful, and few amateurs could have rendered this difficult part more effectively. That our estimate of this gentleman's abilities is correct the laughter and repeated rounds of applause with which he was greeted are sufficient proof.

*Prince Philamir* (Mr. B. Durant) displayed close study and careful reading of a difficult and thankless part. He may at times have lacked energy, might have been a little more enthusiastic, and was certainly weak in some points; but on the other hand, there was none of that stage rant, none of that undue straining after effect which is a very common failing amongst both professionals and amateurs. We may therefore safely say that the Prince found a conscientious, painstaking representative in Mr. Durant.

*Chrysal* (Mr. W. J. S. Shaud) and *Zoram* (Mr. W. de Russett) both displayed considerable ability and showed that they were by no means novices to the "sock and buskin." We trust, however, that they will pardon us when we endeavour to point out a slight defect in their acting which is easily cured. Too much action is, if anything, worse than too little, and we are very much afraid these gentlemen made rather too free use of their hands and arms last night. If they will take the trouble "to read mark, learn, and inwardly digest" Hamlet's advice to the players their future delineations of character will perhaps be more effective.

*Gélanor* (Mr. T. Brewer) was well sustained from first to last. It is a caste of character in which Mr. Brewer was perfectly at home and which he appears to have made his especial study. This was far from being his first appearance "on any boards," we have reason to know that he has elsewhere earned a goodly crop of laurels; to discuss what future honours he will win is—"a momentous question."

*Aristeus* (Mr. Leckie) made the best of a minor part. He possesses considerable ability

though the role assigned to him last night gave him little or no opportunity for displaying it.

*Queen Altemire* was enacted with the lady's well-known ability; the reputation she already enjoys was more than sustained last night. The rôle entrusted to her, although secondary in importance, was brought out in stronger relief by a rich under current of humour which she cleverly infused into it.

*Princess Zeolide* won all hearts—except that of her callous worldly-minded lover. It is impossible to speak too highly of the effective manner in which this exceedingly difficult part was rendered by the lady to whom it was entrusted. Suffice it to say that she was frequently greeted with rapturous applause, that her song "I'll tell thee all I think of thee" fairly brought down the house, and that at the close of the performance she received a shower of bouquets.

*Mirza* was one of those thankless parts which seldom meets with much sympathy amongst an audience. Nevertheless it was cleverly sustained by its representative whose elocution was good and action graceful.

*Asema* was most cleverly acted. It is an eccentric, amusing character which always finds favour in any company. We have reason to believe it was the young lady's first appearance. If this be the case she is to be complimented on having made a most successful debut.

The little that *Palmis* had to do was well done, but the part is much too brief and unimportant to admit of any special notice.

The piece was splendidly put upon the boards. The scenery reflects infinite credit on Mr. Vivanti. The avenue of palms by night was remarkably good and quite equal if not superior to that usually met with in provincial theatres at home. The dresses will considerably add to Mr. Barnard's fame as a costumier. Last, but by no means least, Mr. Herbert deserves the highest praise as stage manager, for it was owing to his untiring exertions in that capacity that so great a measure of success was achieved.

The band of the imperial naval college was in attendance and played excellently, and with much spirit, a selection of favourite airs between the acts.

## Correspondence.

### JAPANESE FOOD.

To the editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

DEAR SIR:—Having for some two years past spent much of my time travelling in the interior and necessarily compelled, much of the time and much to my discomfort, to depend in great measure upon native food, I think I am now pretty well acquainted with that subject.

There are some few articles among the varied native dishes that are wholesome and nutritious yet barely tolerable to a western palate, but I must confess that long and intimate acquaintance only confirms and intensifies my dislike to what some one has aptly described as "That disgusting horror called Japanese Food."

The greatest of all its faults I think is its lack of sufficient nutriment, the proof of which may be seen in the lank features and scrawny forms of the great mass of the people.

In ancient times, when the people were fewer in number than at present, the flesh of deer, bears, wild hogs, and other wild animals

and birds was in good repute and furnished a diet much more fitted to give muscle and weight to the human frame than the present custom and style of "Japanese food." But with the increase of population these wild game supplies became more and more insufficient, and the introduction of the Buddhist religion has discouraged and repressed the use of the flesh of domestic animals, and the people have been for some centuries studying the problem of how small an amount of nourishment would serve to keep soul and body together, and from the examination of their ancient history illustrated by old pictures and some of the most ancient armour, it is plain that from an ancestry of robust and noble stature they have gradually declined to a race of effeminate pigmies; and if they continue on their present famine dietary, and decline of *physique*, the whole nation will ere long furnish a good illustration of the story of the man who tried to find out how little provender would suffice for his horse, and just as he had taught the animal to live upon one straw a day, the ungrateful beast fell down and expired! It is true that we see some of the *jinriki-men*, boatmen, and coolies performing wonders of endurance and heavy toil, but if we look more closely into the matter we shall see that this is not continued and sustained physical effort, but only spasmodic, with intervals of idleness, and that the strongest physical development is also attended by the consumption of larger quantities of nutriment of some kind.

Those who have occasion to employ these vegetarian natives for any kind of physical labour will find that they cannot at all compete with western labourers who are fed upon a stronger animal flesh diet, for with all the much vaunted and apparent cheapness of labour here, the accomplishment of any heavy pieces of work costs more than in western countries where daily or monthly wages rule so much higher. My experience has been that in general it takes about five Japanese labourers or mechanics to do the work of one good western man, and the cost of the labour of building a house or other like undertaking is at least one-third more here than in San Francisco, that is, when we make a fair comparison of the extent and quality of the work performed. All this goes to show that popular belief and the best scientific opinion that a due proportion of animal flesh is a great advantage if not an absolutely necessary ingredient in the daily diet of any well fed people, is correct.

The great staple of native diet is rice for all who can afford it, and those too poor to get a full supply of this grain, substitute for it barley, wheat and millet. Buckwheat, beans and peas are also used as concomitants and relishes only in small quantities not being accounted as staple daily necessities. Sweet potatoes, large radishes, carrots, onions that produce no bulb, and bulbs, tubers and roots are found in use, but "Irish potatoes," parsnips, beetroots, asparagus and many of our best vegetables are only known in the foreign markets of the open ports. Rye I have not yet seen in any part of the country, and maize or "Indian corn" is but little cultivated, except in Kiushiu where I am told that it is grown in large quantities. Their green vegetables are such as parsley, celery, lettuce, several varieties of the mustard class, and many others that I never saw in western lands, but no cabbage, or rhubarb or cauliflower or summer squash and others that are common in our native homes, and which are here only found in the "treaty ports" or other places where foreigners reside.

The use of fish as food is very considerable, but their bad modes of curing it detract more than half its value, and much of that in use, even in the localities where it most abounds, is putrid and rotten and wholly unfit for human food; all kinds of shellfish and shrimps are slowly dried, often without salt, the decayed condition of which always announces its presence to the unsophisticated olfactories of foreign visitors.

#### COOKERY.

I will not attempt any formal classification or enumeration of the Japanese cuisine, as I have not attempted any exhaustive, full or regular classification of the food products.

In the cooking of plain rice the Japanese are experts, the whole secret being in supplying just the right quantity of water to have it all evaporated just at the same moment that the rice is sufficiently boiled, and then after constant and brisk boiling to remove it from the fire and let it stand about half an hour, with the pot closely covered, before serving up. If these conditions have been well observed, upon the removal of the heavy close fitting cover, each grain of rice will be found in a perpendicular position and while hot will not be stuck together in masses, or at least only slightly adhesive.

On the other hand while Japan is a tea growing country, I have never yet met with a native of either sex who knew how to brew a pot of tea! They use very small tea-pots, and into one of these they will put a large handful of tea leaves sufficient for a pot ten times the size, and then one of these diminutive pots is often called upon to serve for ten or a dozen people. The hot water, or frequently only lukewarm water, is poured in first and then the tea leaves dropped on the top of the water, and the tea served at once, one cup being served and then the pot replenished with hot water, and so on from cup to cup, the first cup or two, and all the later ones being only insipid hot water while the third, fourth and fifth may have been "strong as lye," and perhaps all only slightly warm.

In the preparation of green vegetables the two principal modes are salting down to be used without further cooking; and again very slight boiling with a piece of fish or an egg, or a bit of bean curd or mushroom, and salted with soy, the cooking being so slight that the soup has no taste except of salt, and the vegetables are green as ever.

Then there is the standard bean soup from beans and wheat that have been worked into a mash and kept in salt perhaps for years, a very unpalatable mess. Or beans and peas are served hard without other cooking than a slight soaking in salty water, more fit to serve as duck-shot than as food for rational beings.

Next in importance of general use comes the "daikon" or pickled radish, the sweetness of whose odours have been sung by so many foreign writers. But the perfume so much lauded is not inherent in the radish, but is owing to the ferment of rice bran in which it has been prepared, the odour of which is synonymous with that often evolved in the fermentation of dough for bread, and not a whit more offensive, and if the radish pickle were well washed off before serving, the peculiar odour would all disappear. Turnips and radishes are also often boiled, but generally spoiled for food by the great quantity of salt soy in which they are soaked, as is true of most Japanese side dishes, as well as of boiled fish.

But in cooking fish these people have one mode that is really good, and if the fish be only a good sort and fresh, few westerns would object to eating it. This is simply to rub the

fish with salt and roast or broil it on the coals, and they call this "shiwo-yaké." But even here I have often met with sad disappointment from getting my mouth filled with the entrails and scales after several delicious mouthfuls of very good fish.

Again, whether the adjuncts to a good meal of native rice be fish, or beans, peas, or green vegetables, or whatnot, the allowance of these served is so homeopathic in proportions that it can be of but little use either as a relish or as a supply of those elements in which the rice is deficient, that are supposed to exist in flesh food, so that practically the Japanese live almost entirely upon rice or in default of this upon barley, wheat, or millet or farinaceous substitutes, and there is really nothing in their cookery to take the place of animal flesh.

And when they do use fowl or pork as they now are beginning to do to a slight extent and in some sections, they spoil all the good and nutritious qualities of such food by boiling it in a strong salty pickle of soy or clear salt, and it comes out as hard as a piece of wood and as delicious as a piece of the saltiest dried cod fish!

Besides these they concoct various sauces made from the putrid heads and entrails and refuse of the fish market, all too disgusting to dwell upon.

The "to-fu," or bean curd, so common in use in various forms of fried, boiled and soups, would be a good and wholesome food, only that the alegar which is used to set the curd is not all eliminated, and gives a disagreeable taste, and has a bad effect upon the digestion.

From the milk of the same bean a cream is gathered by boiling, which is called "yuba," it has a good appearance and flavour, but when dried is so hard as not to be easily softened so as to be in a fit condition for food.

"Ame" is the same substance known in other countries as "barley sugar," and is made by malting barley, millet, rice, and other cereals and often partly from sweet potatoes, and is really a good sweetmeat.

Sweet potatoes are not much used as an article of regular diet at meal times, but chiefly as a lunch for children and in place of cake to offer guests, and are both baked and boiled. Radishes and turnips are frequently dried, and in this case become very sweet and serve as a good substitute for cabbage either boiled or pickled.

Bamboo sprouts (not roots) are often boiled and eaten and when sufficiently young and tender they form a very good substitute for sweet corn.

The principal native fruits are the peach, plum, pincot, almond, persimon, crabapples, quinces, figs, oranges, grapes and very hard pears. The persimons in some varieties of grafted fruit are very large and fine, not unlike a fine sweet apple, but the other fruits are generally inferior, especially the pear which is hard and gritty and without flavour.

Many kinds of fish are cooked and eaten that are not known as food in other countries, such as a very small eel, the shark and the small dog fish, some of these being exceedingly poisonous. Also crows and other wild birds and vermin that would in any other country be considered most offensive and disgusting, are here the especial delicacies of the epicure.

The country is capable of producing an abundance of the best of food, and if these people could only reason to select the best articles of diet and to cook them in a more commonsense manner in place of their present miserable famine fare they might truly live upon the "fat of the land."

The soil is generally rich and productive, and with a population considerably less than Great Britain and Ireland they have a territory about twice as large.

There is no material and physical matter in which they need to learn and copy and imitate the habits of western civilization more than in what concerns their daily food, that if possible they may recover some degree of the robust proportions once possessed by their ancestors.

Yours sincerely,

G.

Kumamoto, Nov. 28th., 1881.

#### JAPANESE WRITERS ON CHRISTIANITY.

To the editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

DEAR SIR,—In your issue of the 3rd current you made some comments on translations of two articles on Christianity from the *Riku Go Zasshi* which appeared in the *Church Missionary Intelligencer* for October. I have been expecting some one familiar with the facts and fonder of newspaper correspondence than I am to reply to these comments, but as no one else seems disposed to do so I trust you will allow me space for the following remarks.

You say of these articles; "We in this country believe they are either wholly or partly the work of a foreigner and value less as an indicator of the attitude of even a single Japanese towards the religions of the west." You complain that "there is no note or remark informing the reader that the *Riku Go Zasshi* is a propagandist publication," and that the writer of the articles was either "an Englishman or American and not a Japanese;" and you express the opinion that the articles from the *Riku Go Zasshi* are worthless for . . . any purpose except to "show the views of missionaries."

The *Riku Go Zasshi* is the organ of the *Sei Nen Kai*, or *Young Men's Christian Association* of Tokio. This association is the result of a purely native movement, and both it and the *Riku Go Zasshi* are now and have always been entirely under native management and control. Articles from missionaries are indeed welcomed, but hitherto the native editors have not been very successful in obtaining such articles, and complain that the magazine has not met with the support from this quarter they anticipated. With the exception of Dr. Faulds and Dr. Verbeck none of the missionaries has contributed articles. The magazine has nevertheless met with a very encouraging degree of success. It is now in its second year and is a paying concern.

The two articles in question were written by natives, the one by the Rev. Mr. Uyemura, pastor of the native (Presbyterian) church at Shitaya, Tokio, and the other by the chief, editor of the magazine, the Rev. Mr. Kosaki a graduate of the congregational seminary at Kiyoto, and pastor of the congregational church at Tokio. Both of these young men are personally known to me. They are perfectly competent to write such articles; I have their word that they are the authors of these particular articles, and I know that no missionary is. I do not know what further evidence of authorship, positive or negative, could be given. Uyemura is a pupil of the late Dr. Brown of Yokohama by whom he was carefully instructed in English. He is a young man of real ability, an omnivorous reader and an enthusiastic student of English literature and philosophy. He is at present to my knowledge going through the works of Spencer and Carlyle and evidently digests what he



reads. Mr. Kosaki is like minded and is equally accomplished. He has had to endure a great deal of persecution from his family on account of his profession of Christianity and pecuniarily has gained nothing by it. He is supported by his congregation or by his own literary efforts, and receives nothing whatever from foreign sources. There is no reason that I know of for doubting that his utterances as well as Ujemura's are "the genuine spontaneous utterances of a Japanese mind."

You will, I hope, excuse my saying that your article seems to show that you are almost entirely unacquainted with the results of missionary effort in this country and unaware of the really rapid progress that Christianity has of late been making. For this probably we and not you are to blame, and I have therefore to request your permission to state a few facts bearing on this subject. For the sake of accuracy and brevity I shall confine my remarks to the denomination with which I am myself connected.

The *Iteji Kujō Kai*, or *Union Church*, is the result of a union between the missionaries of the three Presbyterian churches (the American Presbyterian Church, Reformed Church in America, and United Presbyterian Church of Scotland) labouring in Japan, who have very sensibly united their forces. It is bad enough that all the denominations of Christendom should be reproduced in Japan; it would be unpardonable if there were to be three shades of Presbyterianism. There is a theological seminary in connection with the *Union Church* with a regular staff of teachers and an average attendance of about twenty students. The curriculum extends over four years and the students are taught all the ordinary branches of a theological education. You say "We do not think any Japanese writing in support of Christianity has ever heard of Manichæism." I think any of our ordinary students could tell you what Manichæism was. Certainly the best of them could. Church history is one of their ordinary branches of study, and care is taken to test and ensure their progress by both oral and written examinations and by insisting that a satisfactory standard shall be reached before they are allowed to pass into a higher class. There is nothing so abstruse or peculiar about Christianity that a Japanese student cannot be expected to master its history and doctrines.

The Rev. Mr. Ibuka, also a pupil of Dr. Brown's, has lately been associated with the foreign instructors in the work of the theological school. If you will drop into the seminary, No. 17 Tsukiji, any forenoon while the school is in session you will probably find Mr. Ibuka in the library of the institution preparing his lectures, with such exegetical works as Godet, Meyer, and Alford lying open around him. He can also, when occasion requires, consult his Greek testament though I do not claim for him that he is a profound Greek scholar.

There are at present about 15 ordained ministers and 22 or 23 regularly organized congregations in connection with the *Union Church*. I speak with some little uncertainty as to numbers only because the statistics for last year have not yet reached me. Each of these congregations is represented, in accordance with the Presbyterian system, by its pastor (where there is one) and an elder or layman in the Presbytery with which it is connected. There are at present three such Presbyteries which take the superintendence of the congregations within their respective bounds, and these Presbyteries again, for general legislative and administrative purposes, unite in a general Synod which is to meet every two years. The first meeting has just been held under the happiest auspices.

Perhaps it may be said, "These organizations are entirely exotic, they are maintained by foreign influence and are not rooted in native soil." This is not quite correct. The business of these church courts has already in great measure passed into native hands. The moderator or president is usually a native minister. The missionaries are members and have the right to speak and vote, but they are in a minority and both on principle and policy leave the management of affairs very much in the hands of the natives—on principle because they think it right that the natives should have the management of their own affairs, and on policy because the Japanese are a high spirited and independent people and will not be held in leading strings by any. If you will send a reporter to the next meeting of the synod he will not fail I am sure to be struck with the decorum of the proceedings, the knowledge of forms and rules of order displayed by the native members, and their readiness and skill in debate. Let him also listen to the examinations and answers of the candidates for ordination to the ministry and to the critical exercises and sermons they are required to preach before their Presbyteries, and he will, I am persuaded, cease to wonder that two such articles as those you have commented on should have been written by native Christians.

I have often heard the statement made that the converts to Christianity in Japan are drawn entirely from the lower ranks of the people. This is not correct. Nakamura, the best Chinese scholar in the country, is a professing Christian. Tsuda, the well known agriculturist and, with Nakamura and others, the author of an English, Chinese and Japanese dictionary just published which bids fair to supersede all others, is also a Christian; and the great majority of our students and preachers are drawn from the samurai class. Indeed within a comparatively recent period it was only in this class that persons could be found intelligent and courageous enough to embrace and profess Christianity. I gladly and gratefully acknowledge that latterly converts have been drawn in great numbers from the masses of the people. This is as it should be and augurs well for the prospects of Christianity in Japan. In all countries Christianity has made its way from below upwards and doubtless it will be the same here. If you wish to set a forest on fire the best way certainly is not to kindle the tops of the trees but to fire the brush and under wood and soon the whole forest will be wrapped in flames.

The Japanese Christians are making creditable efforts in the direction of self support. It is a rule in the *Union Church* that each congregation shall pay a definite share, from the first, of its pastor's salary, and that this share shall be increased as the congregation increases.

I have only to add that although I have confined my remarks to the *Union Church*, other denominations have had similar and possibly even in some cases greater success, considering the time they have been in the field and the efforts put forth.

I regret that such a long time should have elapsed between your article and my reply, but as this matter is one of permanent interest, I trust you will still give this letter a place in your columns, more especially as I subscribe myself, openly and frankly,

Yours sincerely,

S. G. McLAREN.

Missionary of the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland, and one of the Instructors in the Union Theological Seminary.

No. 18, Tsukiji, Tokio, Dec. 15th, 1881.

## Occasional Notes.

On Thursday the 8th. instant, several curious and interesting experiments with blasting gelatine were tried in the grounds of the naval college at Tokio.

The invitations were issued for 1 p.m., but through some misunderstanding, it was past 3 o'clock before business commenced. Amongst those present were the minister of the naval department and his staff, a large number of naval, military, and marine officers and cadets, and a large section of the native population of Tokio. Foreigners, for some reason or another, shone by their absence.

We would gladly and willingly give some account of the nature and composition of blasting gelatine but unfortunately it is not in our power to do so. The gentleman who conducted the experiments either could not or would not afford any information on the point. We vainly tried to obtain from him a circular or prospectus of the invention but his answer was that he had none. All we can say is, that it has been patented and that it appears to be even more powerful than the ordinary dynamite, a description of which was given in our issue of the 29th. March last. To look at it no one would imagine it was an explosive at all. It is made up in cartridges of about four inches in length and has very much the appearance of thick jelly or glue, being quite sticky to the touch.

The first experiment was on a dilapidated Prussian steel gun about six feet in length with a chamber 6 inches in diameter. This was placed in a pit four feet deep in a corner of the ground; about 5 lbs. of the gelatine was lodged in the chamber which was securely closed with a thick tamping of clay after a double fuze had been first inserted. The pit was then filled in with several pieces of timber and a quantity of sand bags. The fuze referred to was about a hundred yards in length; the ends of it were attached to an electro-magnetic battery which was placed at that distance from the guns. These preparations were of course anxiously watched by the spectators some of whom appeared to be almost breathless in suspense. The operator commenced to turn the handle of the battery and after a few seconds a terrific explosion was heard, the timber and sand bags were incessantly scattered to the four winds and the gun was blown to fragments.

After a brief delay the next feat was proceeded with, which was the uprooting of a large tree. A small charge of the gelatine was laid at the roots by means of a hole which had previously been bored and which, after the charge and fuze had been inserted, was closely stopped up with clay. The battery was set to work as before and after an interval of a second or two the explosion took place, when the tree was lifted fairly out of the earth and fell flat on the ground. The next two experiments showed that the gelatine was equally effective in cutting down trees as in uprooting them. Holes were bored in the trunks of two others about 2½ feet above the ground, the charge was inserted and fired as before and the "monarchs of the forest" were cut down as cleanly as though they had felt the weight of Mr. Gladstone's axe.

By way of a change, the exhibitor turned his attention to the large pond in the centre of the grounds and showed by several trials that the gelatine was equally as effective

under water as on dry land. With the battery and fuze he exploded several charges in order to prove what might be done with the explosive in the way of torpedo practice.

As a final effort, a hole was bored in two large blocks of granite, each of which must have weighed several hundred weight, and which were of something more than the usual hardness and solidity. A three ounce charge of gelatine was inserted together with a fuze and tamping of clay. In this experiment the battery was discarded; as soon as the loading was completed the exhibitor applied a match to the fuze and betook himself to the friendly shelter of a clump of trees on the other side of the grounds as fast as his legs could carry him. After rather less than the usual interval, a deafening report was followed by a liberal scattering of splinters from the rocks both of which had been blown to pieces almost small enough to re-metal the roads and streets of Tokio, some of which are in such a sad state of repairs that they would cause the defunct Macadam to shed tears were he still in the land of the living and able to behold their mutilated condition.

This closed the days proceedings which were watched with the utmost interest by all who were present. What was said of dynamite in our issue of the 29th. March last may also be said of blasting gelatine: its chief advantage is that it gives off no smoke. In all the experiments on Thursday last, no sooner was the report heard than the effects were at once seen. The hottest climate is said to produce no deteriorating effect on dynamite, but it remains to be proved whether gelatine is equally impervious; it may be and perhaps is, but doubts have been expressed by those who are no mean authorities on the subject of explosives.

Before the experiments commenced, we were enabled, through the courtesy of two of the foreign officials, to take a brief survey of several parts of the Kaigunsho, and we can, say with truth that the authorities of the imperial naval college are doing their best to render the course of instruction given to their students as complete and comprehensive as possible. This, of course, is to be understood in a comparative sense. Nevertheless, a good beginning is made and patience and perseverance may hereafter produce some creditable results. One thing we observed is worthy of special commendation which is, the exact order and precision which appears to be rigidly observed in every department of the establishment. The ordnance store, armoury, and lecture room would surprise many outsiders. We were shown the model of a steam frigate made after the pattern of one of the latest additions to the British navy which is used by the cadets as a guide to their studies; it is about six feet long, is perfect and well proportioned in all its parts, and reflects infinite credit on the maker, be he whom be may. Occasional visitors to Tokio might do worse than pay a visit to the naval college.

According to the *Choya Shinbun* paper money to the amount of 695,853 yen was again destroyed by fire yesterday (18th. Dec.) at the government printing office.

The same paper says a quarrel recently took place between the militia and police force in the Hokkaido; it was evidently of a serious character as sixteen or seventeen persons were seriously wounded and two killed.

The *Hochi Shinbun* announces that the proposed central bank, having been approved by the government, will soon be established. The finance minister, however, is said to have recommended the government to suspend its sanction for a while.

The same paper remarks that Mr. Matsudaira, with some merchants in Osaka, proposes to purchase three sailing vessels for the purpose of transporting timber from Hokkaido; he also intends to establish timber companies in several places.

The *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* says:—A meeting of the Nippon Tetsudo Kwaisha was held on the 6th. instant for the election of officers; the members were about to proceed to business when Mr. Yayashi Tomoyuki, who took the chair unexpectedly announced that he had received a notice from Senator Nakamura to the effect that the government had decided to sell the railway between Tokio and Yokohama, and to pay for the construction of the first section of the proposed line, that is, Tokio to Takasaki out of the proceeds; and when this is completed to sell it to the people, similarly constructing all the sections of the proposed line by degrees. He suggested that this being the case, all resolutions passed at previous meetings of the company amounted to nothing. The members were much astonished by this statement, but they decided to elect their officers at any rate; the election was then completed. The affairs of the company seem to be much confused.

According to the Tokio Keizai Zashi, the total amount of paper currency recently destroyed by fire at the government printing office realizes 3,508,296 yen.

The *Choya Shinbun* says the *daijin* and *sangi* entertained the Korean ambassador at the Yenriokwan on Saturday last 10th. inst.

The same paper states that His Imperial Majesty held a *levee* of the governors of *fu* and *ken* at the Imperial palace on the 8th. inst., when he explained their duties and clearly laid down the power and authority they would continue to exercise until such time as a national representative assembly should be established.

The *Hochi Shinbun* publishes a rumour to the effect that the foreign office officials are now re-examining the draft proposals for treaty revision, and with this object are minutely investigating our export and import trade.

According to the *Mai Nichi Shinbun*, H. E. Kuroda is rumoured to have stated in his memorial laid before the government that he hoped the Kaitakushi would be left in its present state for three years at an annual expenditure of 600,000 yen, because if it be abolished all undertakings commenced by it, in which many million yen have been invested, will be ruined. This memorial has caused serious discussion among the cabinet members, and one *Daijin* entertains great fears as to its final result.

We have much pleasure in publishing the Rev. S. G. McLaren's correction of a note in this journal of 3rd. instant in reference to a translation of an article from the *Riku-go Zasshi* which had appeared in the *Church Intelligencer*. As our correspondent justly observes, the question is one of permanent interest; and it is right we should add a few words of explanation of the doubts previously

expressed by us. A gentleman now in London, and some few years ago resident in Japan, himself a man of erudition and observation, and a consistent supporter of the cause and labour of christian missionaries, was struck by the force and style of the article in the *Church Intelligencer*. Subjecting the article to the test of his knowledge of the standard of Japanese writers three or four years ago, he came to the conclusion that the arguments supported by citations from numerous authors were of too advanced a character to have been written by a Japanese. Anxious to discover if his surmises were correct he forwarded the article to us, and after many inquiries, we too believed that a more educated mind had inspired the nominal author. This supposition is now effectually disposed of, and none will be more agreeably surprised than our London friend, who will certainly make all reparation for his error by giving the widest publicity to the statements of Mr. McLaren; not merely to remove the widespread impression already alluded to, but to enlighten those of our countrymen at home as to the progress and achievements of missionary labour in Japan, of which they are somewhat sceptical.

With great respect we deprecate the diffidence of our correspondent with regard to addressing the press. His letter of to-day is evidence of how completely an erroneous impression may be removed, and facts of the highest interest brought to light, by a communication to a newspaper. Correspondents should do themselves the justice to realise that a letter to a newspaper attracts more attention, if it does not possess the force, of a leading article: that it is presented to the world, and is conclusive, if its foundation is sound and its arguments just. No layman, we venture to say, is acquainted with the progress made by christianity in Japan as described by Mr. McLaren; and we can only regret that even fuller particulars of the good work are not published here as well as at home.

The *Oesterreichische Monatschrift für den Orient* for October contains several articles on subjects connected with the far east. Professor Blumentritt, the well-known Austrian geographer, writes on some important productions and branches of industry of the Philippines. One of these is hemp. Manila hemp requires an average temperature of 25°C. (=77°Fah.) and consequently it is chiefly grown in the southern and eastern provinces of Luzon, and in the Visayas. In protected spots the plant reaches a height of from three to four metres. Its appearance is striking, for the leaves are about 2½ metres in length and half a metre wide. Other plants of this species are cultivated for their fruit, the hemp, or *musa textilis*, is prized for its rind. After three years unchecked growth, as soon as the fruit appears, and the outer rind commences to get blackish, the great leaves are taken away to feed cattle or to be used in paper factories. For three days the stems are allowed to ferment, then the rind is carefully separated from the rest, and beaten and washed. It is then laid out in the sun to dry. When this is finished, the hemp is collected in packages and sent to Manila for sale. Hemp is there from 150 to 200 per cent. higher than in the provinces. The crop is every year, and one plant can be used until the fifth, or at most the seventh year. It is sent to Europe almost invariably in its raw state; while the excellent materials woven from it in the interior reach Singapore, Spain, England and North America, only in isolated samples. A large number of

different kinds of cloth are made from this hemp, either alone or mixed with some other material, such as silk or cotton. Among other textile industries of the Philippines, that from the *ananassa sativa*,—called by the natives *pina*, is mentioned. In European commerce it is known as grass-cloth. These stuffs are completely transparent, and have an unpleasant yellow-ochre colour. They are used almost entirely for Malay finery. The finest is that known as grass-cloth of Ilo-ilo, because it is chiefly exported from that port. One can gain an idea of the fineness and elegance of this texture when it is mentioned that the natives often pay two thousand dollars for a single suit. A great future is expected for this branch of industry, when the merits of the grass-cloth become known in female circles in Europe.

The manufacture of perfumery is also of considerable importance; but the scents are not yet known well in Europe.

Tobacco, however, is by far the most important industry of the Spanish possessions in the east. It was first introduced into the islands from America by the Spaniards towards the middle of the sixteenth century; and the soil and climate suited the plant so well, that in aroma it stands but little behind that of Havana. Although plantations were to be found everywhere, the tobacco was, at one time, only for domestic consumption, and was not exported. In 1781 governor Basco introduced the tobacco monopoly, and then Manila tobacco began to be known in Europe. It is unnecessary to quote here the long description which the writer gives of the mode of raising and harvesting the plant, and then manufacturing it for the foreign markets. When it reaches Manila from the plantations in the interior, it is sent to the government factories. About four-ninths of the crop is sent in leaves to Spain and abroad, while the rest is made into cigars and cigarettes at the factories. This work is done almost entirely by women and girls, who are employed by thousands in this industry. In the Visaya islands the former monopoly system was not so stringent as in the main island, and the inhabitants smoke cigars of extraordinary dimensions, which look almost like walking sticks. They are frequently used to make presents, and last four or five hours. In other parts of the islands, the inhabitants prefer to chew the tobacco. Manila tobacco is very strong, though of fine aroma. The Havana manufacturers seem to mix it with their own, at least, according to the British consular reports, tobacco is sent from Manila to Havana. In Europe there is an unfounded prejudice against Manila tobacco, as it is supposed to be mixed with opium. Comparatively few of the cigars reach Europe; the most of those exported are sent to North America, Asia, and Australia. In the open ports of China and Japan they are largely sold. If in sorting the leaf, attention was given to its quality rather than size, Manila tobacco need not fear competition with Havana.

Chinese tea is also grown in the Philippines, but it has not been generally cultivated. If attention were devoted to it, tea would be a new source of wealth and prosperity for the Spanish colony.

THE *Japan Herald*, alluding to the late Rengo Kiito Nidzukurisho, says, "It is now demonstrated that some short-sighted persons, even when assisted by spectacles, can see no further into a mill stone than native dealers." The *Herald* should have added that dark blue spectacles are the worst of all assistants to

human vision, for they serve to blind the wearer to the public estimation of his many amiable, impartial, and honourable characteristics.

THE same paper says the establishment of a new central bank, originally fixed for the 1st. prox., has been indefinitely postponed on the advice of the finance minister,

ACCORDING to the *Hochi Shinbun*, a new journal devoted to the cause of the liberal party will be published on and after 1st prox. Mr. Itagaki is named as the editor and Mr. Nakashima as manager. Branch offices will be established in several parts of the country, and its special correspondents will be despatched to every *fu*, *ken*, and city.

THE *Choya Shinbun* extracts the following statistics from the report of the educational department for 1879 which has been recently published.

Number of public common schools ...	26,710
" " private " " ...	1,315
Total .....	28,025
Increase as compared with that of the preceding year .....	1,441
Number of teachers in such schools...	71,046
Increase as compared with that of the preceding year .....	5,434
Number of scholars in such schools...	2,315,070
Increase as compared with that of the preceding year .....	41,846

THE *Choya Shinbun* says that H.E. Yamada, *sangi* has been making great exertions, in conjunction with Messrs. Mori and Ikeda, towards the establishment of a house of *kwasoku* on the same plan as the English House of Lords.

THE *Akebono Shinbun* is said to have changed hands and to have been purchased by certain high officials for 15,000 *yen*. Two other journals have adopted a new line of policy, and it is rumoured that a well-known editor will shortly be appointed a member of the *sanji-in*.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* says Chinese residents are on the increase in Osaka. Their number now reaches 221, and an average of 20 continue to arrive by each steamer from Hongkong, Shanghai, &c.

THE *Akebono Shinbun* says H. E. Saigo had a conference with the prime minister yesterday (14th. inst.) It is believed that the former will be reinstated to the office of war minister and that many new appointments will shortly be announced.

MR. HANABUSA, minister to Korea called on the Korean ambassador yesterday (14th. inst.) The latter will shortly return to his country.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* says:—In consequence of native planters having sustained serious loss of business by the daily increasing importation of foreign sugar, an association has been established at Higashi-ku in Osaka for protecting the trade. The second general meeting was held on the 1st. March last. It was then decided to organize a company for improving the manufacture of sugar, extending the business, and thereby checking further importation of the article. It was further resolved to apply to the government for special protection in furtherance of these objects.

In accordance with this resolution, Messrs. Miyakosaki, Satake, and other representatives

of the projectors from two *fu* and twelve *ken* sent in an application to the government in October last. The latter have recently notified their approval of the undertaking, and the company have elected their officers and framed their byelaws.

ACCORDING to the *Mai Nichi Shinbun*, the *Nichi Nichi* has been purchased, not by the government, but by Mr. Inouye, foreign minister who has paid 100,000 *yen* for it.

THE same paper says the cost of the proposed line of railway from Tsuruga to Toyama (about 140 English miles) is estimated at 5,200,000 *yen*.

A SERIOUS fire occurred in Tokio at 3.50 a.m. yesterday (15th. inst.) It commenced at No. 14, Sakamoto-cho, Nichome, Shitaya and was not got under until upwards of 140 houses were destroyed and a woman and child burnt to death.

At frequent intervals rumours are circulated to the effect that changes are to be made in the diplomatic and consular representatives of the United States in Japan. We have heard the nomination of Mr. E. H. House to the consul-generalship mentioned several times; and yesterday there is a fresh report to that effect with the addition that Mr. John Russell Young, author of *Around the World with General Grant*, is to replace the Hon. J. Bingham as minister in Tokio. That Mr. Bingham, who has never, during the years he has filled his position, done a single good turn to the large and growing interests of his countrymen, could be replaced with advantage, we are not disposed to question: but to substitute Mr. John Russell Young, who regards every foreigner in Japan, his countrymen included, as 'rowdies' and interlopers, for Mr. Bingham whose talent is displayed in "masterly inactivity," would be to aggravate injury by insult. Of the sense in which American citizens in Japan would regard the substitution of Mr. House for General Van Buren, of the appointment of a former hired partisan and mercenary writer in support of every iniquitous aggression upon treaty rights, in place of a tried, competent, respected, and in every respect experienced officer, we have before spoken in terms too plain to be misconstrued. These are not times when the interests of foreigners in Japan, for what the United States will do in the matter of treaty revision vitally effects us all, can be entrusted to a literary toady who owes his promotion to his servility towards one of the great men of his nation; and to a person whose reputation, both among Japanese and foreigners, is notoriously bad.

His Imperial Majesty the Mikado will visit Fukiage park on the 22nd. inst. to witness the target practice by officers of the imperial guards. He will shortly proceed to the districts along the Tamagawa river where the hare hunting season is in full force.

THE mission of the Korean ambassador, says the *Hochi Shinbun*, is not, as was at first reported, connected with the opening of the port of Ninsen, but with the revision of the treaty tariff. The draft of the proposed revision which he brought with him has not been accepted by the Japanese government; negotiations therefore cannot be proceeded with, so he will accordingly return to his country at an early date.

SOME few days ago we heard with regret that a disease, almost epidemic in its character and supposed to be epizootic, had broken out among the cattle of a large dairy establishment a few miles outside of Yokohama, and that several animals had died. We hear yesterday that the proprietor of the establishment proposes to remove the survivors to the settlement for the purpose of isolating them with a view to their safety. However useful and beneficial this measure is likely to be we think the public interest demands that it should be reconsidered; or at all events that nothing should be done until a competent veterinary surgeon has given an opinion on the nature and infections or contagious character of the disease. This is a precaution essential to the protection of a number of other cattle owners, native and foreign.

A REPORT reaches us from Kobe that changes are contemplated with regard to the head-quarters of the Hongkong line of the Mitsu Bishi Company. If our informant is not mistaken, the Hongkong steamers will make Kobe their terminus in Japan, cargo for Yokohama being transhipped by the Shanghai or direct steamers to this port. Such a change is inevitable, unless the company can manage to double the number of vessels on the line. Two ships for a fortnightly service of about 3,500 miles for the round voyage, are not sufficient; and the wisdom of the new arrangement is proved by the fact that these ships, instead of being almost constantly at sea, will each make only one five day voyage in fourteen.

Outward cargo from here to Hongkong is not worth a thought; inward cargo is chiefly for Kobe, and that for Yokohama may easily be transhipped as vessels of the same line are constantly running between the two ports.

On the whole, this settlement enjoys a fair immunity from robberies and petty depredations, and the rule of *meum and tuum* is tolerably well observed. Now and again, however, we are startled out of our wonted feelings of security by a report that sundry "peripatetics" are abroad. An instance of the kind occurred on Sunday night which has caused no small degree of sensation.

It appears that some misguided individuals—probably Chinese for your Celestials are the most accomplished burglars in the world—whose education has been neglected, as far as that part of a certain catechism is concerned which enjoins us to keep our hands from "picking and stealing" broke into Mr. Whittall's godown at No. 4 Water Street and abstracted goods, samples, lastings, rabbit skins, iod. of potass, &c., to the value of \$150. With a degree of cunning and ingenuity worthy a better purpose, they effected their entrance on the east side of the building adjoining the office of the Pacific Mail Company by wrenching open the window shutters and taking out a pane of glass. They then, of course stepped in without difficulty and helped themselves to the articles above mentioned. It is superfluous to add that no traces have been, or are likely to be, discovered of the bold heroes.

THE *Mai Nichi Shinbun* says that in consequence of the new criminal code coming into operation next year, extensive alterations and additions are being made to various departmental regulations in order to meet its provisions. The *sangi-in* is busily engaged on the task which must be completed within the present month.

ACCORDING to the same paper a conspiracy has been detected in Korea. Several Koreans under the leadership of Ritaisen, a half-brother of the king, entered into a plot to murder the latter. The 29th, October last was the day fixed for carrying the design into execution. A servant of one of the traitors, however, previously betrayed the scheme and disclosed the names of all who were concerned in it. The whole of the conspirators are now under sentence of death.

THE *Choya Shinbun* hears that the Tokio-Yokohama railway is about to be sold to the Nippon Tetsudo Kwaisha.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Japan Daily Mail* alludes to the republication in this journal of an extract from the *Rising Sun and Nagasaki Express* vilipending Mr. E. H. House. We regret, for various reasons, that the extract ever appeared in this journal. Those reasons are because a letter couched in similar language by the same author had been sent to us for publication, a request with which we politely declined to comply, on the grounds that Mr. House is not now in Japan and has, therefore, no means of replying and probably of demolishing his critic or censor: that Mr. House has of late made no appearance in print to warrant criticism: that his private affairs and his nationality are matters of profound indifference to us; and, finally, that the community is heartily sick of the subject.

THE *Tokio Keizai Zasshi*, a liberal and free trade organ, is publishing a series of articles on the Mitsu Bishi Company. The line adopted by this journal is, the company's neglect to keep the vessels in efficient repair, and its misuse of the subsidy it receives from government. With regard to this style of attack we have only to say that the *Keizai Zasshi* is misinformed with regard to the condition of the company's vessels. We have sufficient experience of nautical matters to know that all needful substantial repairs are done, and well done, to any ship requiring them; and that the company's fleet is, in every way, seaworthy. When this circumstance is brought to the notice of our contemporaries, perhaps it will take the trouble to verify what is here written. If the vessels were in any way unsuitable for the carriage of the most perishable cargo, or for passenger traffic, the public would find out before any newspaper could possibly do so. Justice, therefore, requires the withdrawal of a statement highly injurious in its tendency even if it were true; but doubly so when it rests upon no foundation.

With regard to the subsidy, some consideration should be given to the services rendered in return for it. Does our contemporary know the mileage performed in the mail service, and the allowance per mile? The report annually issued by the postal office will give some valuable information on these points; and if more is wanted it can no doubt be had from the same authentic source.

If the company is so profitable that its chief proprietor is able to invest huge sums of money in various other undertakings, the system should be censured which, as we have always declared, taxes the food of the masses, precludes the cheap transit of commodities, and stifles trade, in order that an individual shall benefit. The monopoly and those who protect it are to be blamed, not the beneficiary, who would be more than human did he not avail himself to the utmost,

and make the most of those privileges which reason tells him cannot possibly last long.

The article then reverts to a sore subject with Japanese,—the assistance extended by government to favoured industries got up and worked by friends of the powerful; and instances the well known indigo case where large sums were advanced for the establishment of a factory to produce indigo from indigenous plants, and it was subsequently discovered that the indigo works were a myth, the capital being used to work a silver mine. By a simple train of reasoning we may be certain that the mine was also a failure; for if it produced silver the loan would have been repaid. If repayment was not made under such circumstances, the borrower was a rogue; and as we all know the indigo manufacturer to be a man of honour, demonstrated by his high-minded conduct in the satsu exchange transaction about two years ago, it is safe to conclude the silver mine was another sink, not for "government" money as it is mistakenly called, but for the funds of the tax-payers. Subsidies given to assist direct exportation are employed solely to promote specie speculation; and generally the system of government aid to private ventures is denounced in strong and justifiable terms, the Mitsu Bishi Company being held up as a special instance of the tendency of monopolies to all evil.

THE *Choya Shinbun* has the following items:—Mr. Hirayama Genra, a sake brewer and 40 others have resolved on the establishment of a silk factory at Oyabumura in Hiogoken with a capital of 100,000 yen. The machinery has been ordered from Paris and French operatives are to be engaged as instructors. The projectors contemplate exporting silk direct next season.

THE sum of 5,200,000 yen, estimated cost of the Toyama-Tsuruga railway has been subscribed as follows:—

1,200,000 Yen	in Yetchu
60,000	" " Noto
2,000,000	" " Tokio
1,200,000	" " by the Nishi Honganji
	(chief Buddhist temple)
200,000	" " by Mr. Mayeda, chief
	promotor, who had previously subscribed a large amount.

MR. OKABE, editor of the *Koten Zasshi* published at Yamaguchi, has been sentenced to one hundred days imprisonment and a fine of fifty yen for violation of the press laws.

THE *Mai Nichi Shinbun* says a general meeting of the *sangi* was held on the 16th. instant when the establishment of a government newspaper was warmly discussed.

THE same paper says the Korean ambassador left Yokohama by the *Hiroshima-Maru* on the 17th. instant en route for his own country.

The steamer *Bombay* which will be well known in Shanghai, both in connection with the P. and O. Company, and the disaster which befel her on Christmas Day last, has been converted into a hulk, and is to be towed to Wuhu by the steamer *Kuang-yung* for the purpose of a receiving ship for the China Merchants' Company.—*Shanghai Courier*.



## WRECK OF THE BARQUE "FORWARD HO."

We have been favoured with the following particulars of the dismasting and loss of the British barque *Forward Ho!* of Liverpool, 943 tons, Edward Wade Master, on a voyage from Kobe (Hiogo) towards, Portland, Oregon:—

October 19th., 1881, 4 p.m.—Left Kobe in ballast, passing through the Kii Channel.

October 30th, midnight:—Lat 45 N., long. 156 E., or thereabouts,—weather very dirty, ship running under fore and main lower topsails, reefed foresail, and foretopmast staysail; heavy cross sea running, glass falling rapidly, wind S.W.

October 31st., 2 a.m.—Wind suddenly shifted to the N.W., and increased in violence; took in foresail, and made all sails well fast. 4 a.m.—Blowing a complete hurricane, with tremendously heavy cross sea running; kept ship dead before the wind. 5.30 a.m.—The foretopmast and foretopmast staysail blew away. 6.30 a.m.—Maintopmast also blew away. 7 a.m.—Ship running under bare poles, when a terrific squall struck her, throwing her completely on her beam ends, floating the lee boats off the skids, and all the lee spare spars to leeward, smashing in the lee side of the deck-house and washing the men's chests and gear overboard, also smashing in lee side of cabin skylight, half filling the cabin with water; the weather side of the cabin also fell out, carrying with it passenger's baggage and contents of store-rooms to leeward and rendering two chronometers in captain's room useless. The vessel being completely buried on the lee side, we cut away the topmasts, and afterwards the fore and main lower masts; this eased the ship a little, but she continued to lie with her lee topgallant rail under. On getting below, we found the ballast had shifted, scarcely a shovelful being left on the weather side of the keelson. We ascertained also that the lower masts on being cut away had parted about four feet below the deck, the middle of which was torn open, two iron beams and some cross stringers being broken, leaving the whole of the centre of the deck open. The ship all the time continued to strike heavily on the wreckage alongside. We employed all hands and the passengers in covering in the breaks in the deck, with planks, sails, canvas, &c., as the ship was filling fast. Examined the pumps immediately after cutting away the masts, and found the main shaft broken. At noon the wind took off, and the sea began to go down.

During the next two or three days, the weather continuing fine, we employed all hands in further securing the decks, cutting away the wreck and baling out water, in which the passengers assisted. Succeeded in getting the pumps into working order with the help of boats' masts and oars, and set all hands to work pumping and trimming ballast, which was kept up day and night, until everyone was completely fagged out and several of the men had their feet frost-bitten, the weather being exceedingly cold. After a few hours spell, we went to work again on both water and ballast, and kept at it until the vessel righted, the hands being allowed a rest of four hours per day only.

A week after the disaster, the ship having been got more upright, we started a few of the hands rigging a jury foremast, the rest being employed in trimming ballast and pumping. During the following week, we managed to get the foremast rigged and sail on the vessel,

and kept her away to the southward and westward. After getting the jury foremast rigged we commenced a jury mainmast, and eventually succeeded in getting it rigged and setting canvas on it. The weather all this time fortunately continued fine, with very light variable winds. Bore away for Hakodate.

November 20th (Sunday), noon.—Cape Yerimo, island of Yezo bearing N.W., about 20 miles, wind N.E., the glass began to fall and weather to look dirty; took in some of the light sails. 4 p.m. Blowing heavily, and sea rising fast; reduced sail further. 8 p.m.—Wind increased to a hurricane; ship scudding under jury foresail and forestay-sail. 9 p.m.—Both the latter blew away; brought ship to the wind on the starboard tack, with the aid of a tarpaulin in mizzen rigging. From this, up to noon on the following day (21st), it was almost impossible to do anything, the force of the wind being terrific and the sea tremendously heavy; several of the jury spars carried away, and most of the sails were blown out of the gaskets and off the deck. The glass kept steadily falling from noon on Sunday until about 4 a.m. on Monday, at which hour it marked 28.40, the hurricane being then at its height; the ship rolled and strained heavily, and made much water. On Monday, Nov. 21st, set pumps going, and employed the hands in baling with buckets, and in cutting, making, and bending fresh sails which work was continued until the vessel got ashore.

Nov. 22nd.—While engaged in bending fresh foresail, a stowaway named Andersen, said to be a Swede, fell overboard and was drowned. Every effort was made to rescue him with the help of ropes and life-buoys, but owing to the heavy sea running nothing further could be done, as the ship was being rapidly carried to leeward, and it was impossible to launch the only boat that was left.

Nov. 23rd.—At daylight, we sighted a headland which proved to be Cape Kuro, on the N.E. coast of Nipon. The ship still continued to make a great deal of water, and finally the pumps choked, one of them being found to be broken below. Everything possible was done to endeavour to clear them and to repair the broken one, but without succeeding in getting them into working order. We resolved on making for Miyako Bay, the wind being fair, and it being the nearest harbour.

During the succeeding four days, we had light winds and fine weather; the ship's bottom being evidently in a very bad state, and there being little sail left to put on her, very little progress could be made.

November 27th.—Got a nice breeze from the eastward. Stood in to the land, and succeeded in getting within six miles of it when it fell calm, about daylight.

November 28th.—Vessel drifted bodily in towards the W.S.W., the current carrying her past the entrance to Miyako harbour, and sending her close inshore. Sounded from time to time, but could get no bottom at 50 and 80 fathoms. When about two cables off a ledge of rocks, got soundings in 35 fathoms. On again sounding, obtained 10 fathoms; vessel then too close to rocks to let go the anchor. Before another cast could be made, ship struck heavily twice on a sunken ledge, and slipped over into 9 fathoms. We let go the anchor, but the bottom being rocky, she dragged a little, eventually coming to in 8 fathoms. We then sent boat ashore for help. After some time, two or three small boats came alongside, and

remained but could render no assistance. The master then proceeded ashore to see the headman of a small fishing village near by with a view to obtaining boats to tow the vessel to a place of safety, but without success, most of the fishing boats having been lost in the hurricane of the 20th, and the fishermen declined to risk those left. On returning to the vessel at about 3 p.m., he found her making water very fast, the ballast being afloat. Having only one boat remaining, he deemed it prudent to send ashore passengers, boys, and such of the hands as had been disabled through frost-bites or bruises, the rest of the people remaining on board, doing all that was possible towards clearing pumps and saving the vessel.

During the night, the breeze freshened, and blew with considerable force, causing the vessel to drag, and strike aft very heavily on the rocks, several times. Eventually swung clear, and brought up in 6 fathoms.

November, 29th.—Daylight: Found the vessel to be making water so fast, that it was impossible to do anything more to save her; and the coast being steep-to, could not beach her, the only strip of strand for a considerable stretch on either hand being the beach on which a landing had been effected in the boat but with great difficulty, the surf on it breaking very heavily. Remained by her all day, ship filling fast. During the afternoon, a sampan came off from the shore, conveying an official who warned us of the approach of a strong gale, of which there was every indication, the barometer having fallen, and there being a heavy sea with thick rain.

About 6 p.m., we left the vessel, and after great exertions succeeded in effecting a landing through the rollers; the charts, instruments, &c., in the boat being all either lost or destroyed. We kept watch on the shore all night when it was blowing a gale, with heavy sea.

November 30th.—Daylight: Ship still above water, but it was a matter of impossibility to get off to her on account of the tremendous sea running. About noon, she sank.

## Law Reports.

IN H.B.M.'S SUPREME COURT FOR CHINA AND JAPAN.

Before N. J. HANNEN, Esq., Acting Chief Justice.

6th. December, 1881.

Between THE IMPERIAL JAPANESE GOVERNMENT, Plaintiffs and Appellants,

and

FRANCIS AUGUSTUS COPE, and WILLIAM PETRIE MITCHELL, Defendants and Respondents.

JUDGMENT.

This is an appeal from an order of Mr. Wilkinson sitting as judge of the court of Kanagawa by which he directed judgment upon a special verdict of a jury to be entered for the defendant without costs.

The defendants were the occupiers of a certain piece of land situated in what is called the foreign settlement of Yokohama and known as lot No. 95. The land in the settlement appears to be held of the Japanese government who grant Title Deeds for it in the nature of perpetual leases. Such a Title Deed or perpetual lease was granted to a predecessor in title of the defendants, and so far as I can gather from

the evidence it did not describe the lot by boundaries all round, but it did state the number of Tsuboes the lot contained. The Japanese government in the year 1875 remeasured the lot and found that it contained 536 Tsuboes instead of 401 as stated in the lease. These facts are not disputed nor is it disputed that the 135 additional Tsuboes have been acquired from land belonging to the Japanese Government and not from adjoining lots. The plaintiffs alleged that the whole of this additional land measuring 135 Tsuboes had been taken into lot 95 by appropriating the ground of a public roadway which bounded lot 95 on two sides, and they claim its surrender to them. The case was tried by Mr. Wilkinson and a jury on the 28th. day of February 1878 and following days. The jury found amongst other things that an irregularly shaped bit which they seem to have described with sufficient clearness was not originally included in lot 95. As Mr. Wilkinson does not seem to be dissatisfied with this finding, it would be wrong to disturb it, although it is not very easy to see on what grounds they arrived at their conclusion. They found in effect that all the remaining portion of what is now known as lot No. 95 was expressly leased to the defendants' predecessors in title.

With these findings of the jury upon matters of fact I shall not interfere, but deal simply with the irregularly shaped piece of ground which they find "was not included in the Title Deed as lot No. 95."

The ground on which the court gave judgment for defendants was that the jury had found "that the plaintiff government by its representations induced the defendants to believe that the piece of ground referred to in the answer to question 2," i.e., the regularly shaped piece, "was part of lot No. 95."

In my opinion there was no evidence to go to the jury upon this point and the judge ought so to have directed them. It is not pretended that evidence of direct "representation" was given; the jury must therefore have inferred these "representations" from the fact of the plaintiffs standing by and not claiming the land, but before any such inference could properly be drawn, it is necessary to affect the plaintiffs with notice of the encroachment. This was attempted to be done by shewing that the police, the officers who collected the ground rent, and certain persons who drew up a plan of Yokohama, must have known of the encroachment. Assuming that they did know of the error the question then arises: were these persons [viz: policemen, tax-collectors and land surveyors] such agents of the plaintiffs as to affect them (the plaintiffs) with the knowledge the agents are assumed to have possessed? I am of opinion, on the authority of Ramsden and Dyson (L. R. 1, H. L. 129), that they were not. The plaintiffs therefore never having had notice of the encroachment cannot be said to have acquiesced in it, nor to have by their representations induced the defendants to believe that the piece of ground referred to in the answer to the second question put to the jury was parcel of lot No. 95.

The order of the court below must therefore be varied and judgment must be entered for the plaintiffs for so much of the land claimed in their petition as forms the irregularly shaped piece described in the answer of the jury to the 2nd. question. Each party to pay their own costs.

I have throughout treated the question as one of English law, no evidence having been

tendered to show what the Japanese law upon the points involved in the case may be. Whether such evidence could have been properly given in order to decide the question of law remaining upon the finding of the jury as to the facts, is a very important question which, in view of my opinion upon the English law applicable to the case, it is not necessary to decide.

[L.S.] NICHOLAS J. HANNEN,  
Acting Chief Justice.

## Shipping.

### ARRIVALS.

- Dec. 9, Brit. str. *Malacca*, Weighell, 1,709, from Hongkong via Nagasaki, Mails and General, to P. & O. Co.  
Dec. 10, Jap. str. *Toyoshima-Maru*, Hubbard, 596 from Nemuro and Hakodate, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.  
Dec. 10, Jap. str. *Tagonoura-Maru*, Kato, 558, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.  
Dec. 11, Jap. str. *Kumamoto-Maru*, Drummond, 1,240, from the North, General, to M. B. Co.  
Dec. 11, Brit. str. *Wanderer*, (Royal Yacht Squadron) Gordon, 334, from Honolulu.  
Dec. 12, Jap. str. *Wakanoura-Maru*, Christensen, 1,300, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.  
Dec. 12, Jap. str. *Kokonoye-Maru*, Dithlefsen, 1,133, from Hakodate, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.  
Dec. 13, Am. str. *City of Rio de Janeiro*, Cavarly, 3,548, from San Francisco, Nov. 22nd, Mails and General, to P. M. Co.  
Dec. 14, Froh. str. *Tanais*, Reynier, 1,735, from Hongkong, Mails and General, to M. M. Co.  
Dec. 15, Jap. str. *Akitushima-Maru*, Frahm, 1,148, from Hakodate, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.  
Dec. 15, Jap. str. *Tokio-Maru*, Swain, 2,119, from Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.  
Dec. 16, U. S. gun-boat *Monocacy*, Captain Cotton, 6-guns, 1,370 tons, 900 H.P., 186 men, from a cruise.  
Dec. 16, Jap. str. *Takachiho-Maru*, Nye, 1,406, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.  
Dec. 17, Brit. str. *Lord of the Isles*, Felgate, 1,372, from Kobe, General, to Smith, Baker & Co.  
Dec. 19, Jap. str. *Niigata-Maru*, Wynn, 1,603, from Hongkong via Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.  
Dec. 19, Jap. barq. *Kanagawa-Maru*, Eckstrand, 1,184, from Nagasaki, Coals, to M. B. Co.  
Dec. 19, Ger. barq. *Peiho*, Lanckmen, 350, from Burrard Inlet, Lumber, to P. Bohn.  
Dec. 20, Jap. str. *Suminoye-Maru*, Frahm, 853, from Hakodate, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.  
Dec. 21, Jap. str. *Wakanoura-Maru*, Christensen, 1,300, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.

### DEPARTURES.

- Dec. 10, Froh. str. *Volga*, Guirand, 1,502, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by M. M. Co.  
Dec. 10, Jap. str. *Takachiho-Maru*, Nye, 1,406, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. Co.  
Dec. 10, Jap. str. *Takasago-Maru*, Young, 1,230, for Hongkong via Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. Co.  
Dec. 10, Brit. str. *Lord of the Isles*, Felgate, 1,372, for Kobe, General, despatched by Smith, Baker & Co.  
Dec. 11, Am. str. *City of Tokio*, Maury, 5,050, for San Francisco, Mails and General, despatched by P. M. Co.  
Dec. 14, Am. str. *City of Rio de Janeiro*, Cavarly, 3,548, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by P. M. Co.  
Dec. 15, Jap. str. *Toyoshima-Maru*, Hubbard, 596, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. Co.  
Dec. 15, U. S. gun-boat, *Monocacy*, Captain Cotton, 6-guns, 1,370 tons, 900 H.P., 186 men, for a cruise.  
Dec. 15, Am. barq. *Annie W. Weston*, Winsor, 740, for Hiogo, Tea and general, despatched, by Walsh, Hall & Co.  
Dec. 15, Brit. str. *Malacca*, Weighell, 1,709, for Hongkong via Hiogo and Nagasaki, Mails and General, despatched by P. & O. Co.  
Dec. 16, Jap. str. *Wakanoura-Maru*, Christensen, 1,300, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. Co.

- Dec. 16, Jap. schr. *Sumanoura-Maru*, Spiegethal, 92, for Nagasaki, Ballast, despatched by M. B. Co.  
Dec. 17, Jap. str. *Hiroshima-Maru*, Haawell, 1,870, for Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. Co.  
Dec. 17, Brit. str. *Radnorshire*, Davies, 1,385, for New York via Japan and China ports, General, despatched by Adamson, Bell & Co.  
Dec. 17, Am. ship *Cora*, Thombs, 1,492, for Hiogo, General, despatched by C. & J. Trading Co.  
Dec. 20, Jap. str. *Kumamoto-Maru*, Drummond, 1,240, for the North, General, despatched by M. B. Co.  
Dec. 20, Jap. str. *Akitushima-Maru*, Frahm, 1,148, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. Co.  
Dec. 21, Brit. str. *Wanderer*, (Royal Yacht Squadron), Gordon, 334 tons, for Kobe.  
Dec. 21, Jap. str. *Tokio-Maru*, Swain, 2,119, for Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. Co.

### PASSENGERS.

- Per Brit. str. *Malacca*, from Hongkong via Nagasaki:—Miss F. Cornwall, Miss A. Heap, Revd. Mr. and Mrs. Liudsay in cabin.  
Per Jap. str. *Takasago-Maru*, for Hongkong via Kobe:—Mr. and Mrs. McCormick and six Japanese in cabin.  
Per Am. str. *City of Tokio*, for New York:—Revd. J. R. Goddard, wife and four children, Mr. R. H. Pye, Mr. Andrew Morton, Commander W. L. Sampson, U.S.N., Mr. and Mrs. G. Farley, Jr., and infant, and Mr. J. Stewart in cabin. For London: Dr. A. Langaard and wife, Col. J. Sidney Hand, B.A., and Mr. J. Edge Partington in cabin. For Liverpool: Mr. M. Cammell in cabin. For San Francisco: Messrs. L. L. Beekmish, G. W. Littlejohn and son, and B. Cars in cabin.  
Per Brit. str. *Wanderer* (Royal Yacht Squadron), from Honolulu:—Mr. C. J. Lambert, Mrs. Lambert, Miss Lambert, Miss B. Lambert, Mr. E. Y. Lambert, Master M. Lambert, Master W. Lambert, Miss Power, Revd. J. Wetherall, Mr. R. T. Pritchett and 4 servant.  
Per Jap. str. *Wakanoura-Maru*, from Kobe:—Messrs. E. C. Kirby, Van Lissa, Stoneybrink, Cooper, Caswell, and 4 Japanese in cabin; and 188 Japanese in steerage.  
Per Jap. str. *Kokonoye Maru*, from Hakodate:—Miss Woodworth, Miss Hampton, and 20 Japanese in cabin; and 159 Japanese in steerage.  
Per Am. str. *City of Rio de Janeiro*, from San Francisco:—Messrs. G. Schmidt, K. Morris and wife, C. Hirst, B. Petsake, A. MacKenzie and wife, J. C. Sullivan, U.S.N., S. H. Dickson, U.S.N., D. W. Farrell, U.S.N., N. J. Plum, wife and 2 children, Dr. J. J. Cram, Miss M. Yomans, Mr. C. E. Hill, Dr. J. E. Woodruff and servant, Dr. Eldridge, Mr. Chas. A. Batelle, Mrs. D. W. Farrell, Mrs. J. C. Sullivan, Mr. J. R. Fisher and wife, Mr. Chas. Crea and wife, and Mr. Cressy in cabin. For Hong Kong: Messrs. D. H. Ward and wife, Lee Cheet, Fung Take, and Ah See in cabin; and 784 Chinese in the steerage.  
Per Froh. str. *Tanais*, from Hongkong:—Messrs. Lafont, Jacquet, Robert, Causan, wife and two cousins, Mr. Kakichi and friend, Sister Ste. Marcelline, Mesdames Carbolie Emile, F. J. Francois, Carmon Adolphe, and Seiler Adolphe in cabin.  
Per Jap. str. *Tokio-Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Messrs. J. Marshall, Masle, A. Oestmann, Ah Sum, Mrs. E. Noble, Rev. Robt. Burnett, and 10 Japanese in cabin; 2 Chinese and 230 Japanese in steerage.  
Per Brit. str. *Malacca*, for Hongkong via Hiogo and Nagasaki:—Revd. and Mrs. Davidson, Miss Witbeck, Lord and Lady Harris, Lord Zouhe, Mr. and Mrs. Cheon Cheok Tong and 3 children, Messrs. G. J. L. Hodges, Janssen, A. Brassy, H. Gribble, M. Raspe, Tuffonell, A. R. Hewlett, C. H. Riply, V. Roehr, Cressy, Ho Siew Yae, Ho Lo Yae, Wong Lo Yae, Liong See Do, Choon Chuck, Meng Chie, Hoong Teng, and 14 Chinese in steerage.  
Per Jap. str. *Hiroshima-Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Rev. Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Blanchet and two children, Mr. and Mrs. D. Farrell, Paymaster and Mrs. J. C. Sullivan and child, Mrs. Marshall, Mr. and Mrs. N. J. Plum and two children, Messrs. C. E. Hill, C. T. Betelli, Danio, F. Marty, W. Eytel, Hoist, Fookee, E. H. Gill, F. E. W. Roger, G. W. Thomson, 9 Japanese and 10 Koreans in cabin.  
Per Jap. str. *Niigata-Maru*, from Hongkong via Kobe:—Mr. A. Peterson, U.S.N., Dr. Schenhe, Capt. Brinkley, Mr. H. J. Morse and 2 Japanese in cabin; 2 Chinese and 103 Japanese in steerage.  
Per Jap. str. *Suminoye-Maru*, from Hakodate:—Capt. Wade, Mr. Little, Capt. Williams and crew of British barque *Forward Ho*, and 80 Japanese.

YOKOHAMA, 23RD DECEMBER, 1881.

## IMPORTS.

**100 Dollars Mexican = \$11 Silver Boon.**

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## STAPLE EXPORTS.

**SILK.**—Our last report was dated 9th inst. From the various consuming centres no encouragement whatever to operate has been received, consequently a small business only has to be noted, sales to foreigners during the past ten weeks appearing as about 650 bales, fairly divided as regards descriptions, Kakedas excepted. A decline of \$5 to \$15 per picul has been submitted to; the former on Oshiu, Hamatski descriptions and the latter on Filatures and Kakedas. By holders a more marked reduction is quoted, but when actual quality offered is considered, the illusion is manifest.

Arrivals have exceeded sales and the stock in Yokohama is estimated at fully 10,500 shipping bales. Holders show unmistakably that they are uneasy, but so far do not press their Silks at any marked decline, which would have to be submitted to before buyers would operate freely.

TOTAL EXPORT FROM 1ST JULY TO DATE.										1880-81.	1881-82
London	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,132 Bales.	1,997 Bales.
France and Italy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,095 "	3,725 "
United States	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,129 "	2,576 "
										9,406 Bales.	8,198 Bales.

**TEA.**—The demand reported in our last issue still continuing all Teas from Good Medium downwards show a further advance and native holders are firm in supporting prices. Supplies come in slowly from the country and stocks in consequence are light. Fine and higher grades are not in demand and prices are more or less nominal.

Settlements since date of last mail report amount to piculs 3500 and arrivals during said period being only very moderate, stocks in first hands are light.

Our total export from Japan to close of present year may be estimated in round figures as 31,500,000 lbs. and unless some decided improvement takes place on the home markets total export for season 1881-82 will probably not exceed 35 @ 36 million pounds.

DESCRIPTION.	PRICES PER PICUL.	REMARKS.
SILK:—		
Mayebasti and Sinsbiu; 1½ @ 2 Hanks ... ..	\$630 to \$640 per picul.	} Market weak.
"      "      2      "      ... ..	610 to 625 "	
"      "      2½      "      ... ..	590. to 605 "	
"      "      3 and lower ... ..	520 to 570 "	
Kakedas; Good ... ..	650 to 670 "	
Filatures; Best ... ..	710 to 740 "	
"      Good ... ..	675 to 700 "	
Hamatski; Medium to Good ... ..	505 to 525 "	}
Sendai and Oshiu ... ..	— to — "	
TEA:—		
Common... ..	\$11.00 and under.	} An advance of \$1 on last quotations.
Good Common ... ..	\$12 00 to \$14.00	
Medium ... ..	\$16.00 to \$19.00	
Good Medium ... ..	\$22.00 to \$25.00	
Fine ... ..	— to —	} Prices for these grades more or less nominal.
Finest ... ..	— to —	
Choice ... ..	— to —	

## EXCHANGE.

Since last mail, principally on account of the very limited business done, exchange has undergone little or no alteration. Silver has undergone many fluctuations and closes at 51½.

<b>ON LONDON.</b> —Bank ..... 4 months' sight..... 3s. 9½d.	<b>ON HONGKONG.</b> —Bank ..... Sight..... Par.
" " do. .... Sight ..... 3s. 8½d.	" " Private ..... 10 days' sight..... ½ % disc.
" " Credits ..... 6 months' sight..... 3s. 9½d.	" SAN FRANCISCO—Bank ... Sight..... 80½
" " do. .... 4 do. .... 3s. 9½d.	" " Private ..... 30 days' sight..... 80½
" <b>PARIS.</b> —Bank ..... Sight ..... 4.70	" NEW YORK.—Bank ..... Sight..... 80½
" " Credits ..... months' sight..... 4.85	" " Private ..... 30 days' sight ..... 80½
" <b>SHANGHAI.</b> —Bank ..... Sight..... 73½	
" " Private ..... 10 days' sight ..... 74	

Paper currency, 170 per \$100.



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